

An Understated Dominance Chapter 551 - 600

Chapter 551

“What? He threatened to send his troops?” Everyone was startled by the news

Jacob brought. They had all thought that things would run smoothly. As long

as Tyler agreed to their proposal, the marriage alliance would still be on. Who’

d have thought that this was how things turned out?

“I just don’t get it. What am I lacking compared to Natasha? Why would Tyler refuse to marry me?” Kate hissed through gritted teeth, livid. As a woman, she

had lowered herself so much by going to the Grants

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to offer her hand in marriage. Not only had Tyler not appreciated the gesture and thrown her out, but he also did not even spare her a glance once the entire time! It was pure humiliation!

“So Tyler rejected the swap, and Natasha refuses to marry him. Now what?” Someone asked.

“I say we go head–on against them!” Kate exclaimed in frustration. “Since Tyler isn’t showing us any respect, I don’t see why we should honor them either!”

“Watch your words, Kate!” Trent immediately stopped her from continuing. Th

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ey never knew who might be listening in on them, so they had to practice caution with every word they said.

“You’re the leader of the family, Hector. You decide!” Jacob took his seat huffily and downed an

entire cup of tea. He had been thoroughly put to shame at the Grants earlier o

n and needed something to calm his nerves.

“Since the suggestion for the swap has been rejected, we’ll have to find other

means of getting out of the wedding alliance,” Hector said gravely.

“Here’s my plan. I’ll have my 50th birthday celebration in advance, and hold it

on the same day as the wedding. I’ll organize a huge banquet and invite everyone we know.”

“A celebration for your 50th birthday?” Nobody seemed to understand what Hector had in mind. How would it help to have his birthday celebration in advance?

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“What you’re suggesting, Hector, is to pressure the Grants into backing off with

the celebration?” Trent seemed to catch on very quickly.

“Precisely.” Hector nodded. “Since Tyler insists on forcing Natasha into the marriage,

I’ll hold a huge celebration on the same day, and invite all the rich and famous that we know.

I’m sure the Grants would dare not act rashly in the presence of all the elites.”

“You make a good point there ...”

Trent considered as he rubbed his chin.

“We

have always made sure to stay in others’ good books and made many valuable

connections. It’s time we showed the Grants who we have behind us. It might

make them stop and rethink their choices before acting recklessly.”

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“Hector, your suggestion is only a temporary solution. At the end of the day, the root of the problem still exists. What will we do if Tyler really sends his troops?” Jacob went straight to the point. The Grants were so powerful because they had strong military backgrounds. That was the only reason why nobody dared to mess with them, and the sole reason why the Harmons feared them. “I’ve considered that too, so I’ve contacted Sir Moran in hopes that he’d be able to help us,” Hector said. Sir Moran was a regional deputy chief who was immensely powerful, and based on military ranks, he was considered Tyler’s superior.

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“Will Sir Moran agree to help us?” Jacob had his doubts.

“Jayla had put Sir Moran’s daughter in trouble before. Though she might be dead now, the hatred he has for them will not vanish just like that. We will make use of this and have him help us out,” Hector explained.

“If you really do get Sir Moran on our side, then there’s still hope for us!” Trent looked hopeful.

“I’ll try my best to persuade Sir Moran before the birthday banquet!” Hector announced resolutely. Sir Moran’s powers were their only hope of getting through the mess with the Grants.

“If you really do get Sir Moran on our side, then there’s still hope for us!” Trent looked hopeful.

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“Why would you need to go to anyone else for help when I’m here, Uncle Hect

or?” A deep voice boomed in the meeting room. Soon after, a well-built man in a military uniform walked in with his head held high, and trailing behind him were two adjutants.

“Dylan?” The crowd was pleasantly surprised to see the man because he was

none other than Dylan Harmon, Jacob’s son!

Dylan was stationed at the country’s borders year-

round and would only be home once a year. Nobody had expected him to be

back so soon!

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“Why are you back so soon, Son? Weren’t

you warding off enemies at the borders?” Jacob quickly went up

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to his son joyfully once he snapped out of the initial shock of seeing Dylan.

“Everything’s peaceful over at the borders now, so I took a few days off to

me back for a bit.” Dylan chuckled.

“Good, that’s good... It’s great to see you back! I haven’t seen you in a year! Y

ou look even more ripped now!” Jacob patted Dylan on the back delightedly. H

e was pleased with his son’s achievements. Out of all the members of the you

nger generation in the Harmons, Dylan was the most accomplished of all.

“I’ve got good news, Dad. I’ve been promoted! I’m now a high–ranking commander in the Dark Panther Cavalry. I’ve got over a thousand me

n working under me!” Dylan announced proudly.

“What? A high–ranking commander?” An excited chatter broke

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out among the crowd, who were all delightfully surprised to hear that. There were also some who were envious of his progress. As a high-ranking commander, he was just one step away from becoming a deputy general, and Dylan wasn't even 30 years old yet! To achieve what he had now, especially at such a young age, Dylan had a bright future ahead! "Hahaha! Great! That's amazing!" Jacob laughed heartily. "My son is amazing! He's been promoted again in just a year! I'm proud of you, Son!" "Like father, like son!" Trent exclaimed enviously. "You'll be as great as Tyler Grant, if not better than him in the future, Dylan!" "The Harmon family has produced yet another amazing talent!" Hector was pleased too. Dylan wasn't far off from becoming a general if he was

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already a high-ranking commander before the age of 30.

“Congratulations, Dylan! You’ve attained the greatest heights out of all of us!

Don’t forget about me when you make it big one day!” Kate sucked up to Dylan

n.

“What are you saying, Kate? We’re family! If you ever need anything, just let

me know!” Dylan reassured with a pat on his chest.

“Hahaha! You’re the best!” Kate giggled.

“Right, Dad, you were talking about the Grants. What about them?” Dylan

changed the topic.

“Well, this is how things are right now...” Jacob briefed Dylan about everything

that went on in the family.

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After Dylan heard what had happened, he laughed. “Dad, Uncle Hector, don’t you worry! With me here, Tyler won’t dare to step out of line.” “You may be a high-ranking commander, Dylan, but Tyler is a general. I’m afraid...” Jacob left his sentence hanging. It was true that his son was capable and brilliant, but he was still lower in power compared to Tyler. “Dad! Don’t forget that I’m from the Dark Panther Cavalry! Even deputy generals have to treat me with respect!” Dylan boasted conceitedly.

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The Dark Panther Cavalry differed from ordinary units. They were the best of the best, and all the high-

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ranking commanders from the Dark Panther Cavalry were elites. If they were t

o be

transferred to other units, they could easily be promoted to deputy generals. T

hat was the prestige of the Dark Panther Cavalry.

“Dylan, Tyler is not just a deputy general. He’s been given the title of General

Lionheart, and he’s an official of the third rank!” Jacob reminded him.

“So what if he’s a third–

ranking official?” Dylan scoffed condescendingly. “My general is the Scarlet W

arrior, who is well–known across the whole of Dragonmarsh! And she’s a first–

ranking official!”

“What? The Scarlet Warrior?” Everyone was astonished.

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The Scarlet Warrior was one of the two aces of the Spanner family. She was on par with Adam Spanner, the God of War, and was also the only female general in Dragonmarsh, earning her the title of Goddess of War. Her achievements were extraordinary, and she was skilled in both civil and military strategies, which was why she had such high military standing. Almost everyone in Dragonmarsh knew her.

“My son! I never knew that your general was the Scarlet Warrior! That’s awesome!” Jacob was both surprised and elated. It was an honor not only for Dylan himself but even for the whole Harmon family to have him fight alongside the

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Scarlet Warrior.

“Well, Dad, do you still reckon that Tyler would act recklessly now?”

Dylan ask

ed with his chin lifted high. Though he did not exactly hold a high military position himself, he had the Scarlet Warrior backing him up. With such strong

connections, who would dare mess with him?

“Hahaha! Even Tyler has to give way to the Scarlet Warrior! He’s no match for

her!” Jacob laughed triumphantly.

“That’s great! There’s hope for us!” The rest of the family cheered.

What a turn of events! With Dylan’s return, the Harmons finally had hopes of t

urning the tables. The Grants were in for a shock on the day of the birthday ba

nquet!

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Over the next few days, the Harmons began sending out invitations and busied themselves with preparations for Hector's 50th birthday celebration. As one of the Fabulous Five, the Harmons were a large family with lots of connections, and the leader of the family, Hector, was widely revered. Hence, when news got out that Hector was celebrating his birthday, it sent almost half the city into an excited frenzy. Countless celebrities, wealthy elites, and influential figures were eager to attend the event. Bright and early in the Harmon estate five days later, the entire household busied

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bled with activity. It was truly a grand affair, as not only was it Hector's birthday celebration, but it was also the day that Tyler was coming for Natasha. The Harmons needed all the support they could get to pressure Tyler into backing off. Back in her room, Natasha studied her face in the mirror, admiring how fair and supple her skin was now. She was pleasantly surprised by how well the wound healed. She had steered clear of mirrors for quite a while after her face was wounded, as she dreaded seeing the state her face was in. But now, there was absolutely no trace of the ghastly wound, and it did not even

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en leave behind a scar. In fact, her skin seemed to glow under Dustin's careful nursing. It was apparent that Dustin's ointment was not only capable of healing

wounds, but it also had beautifying effects.

"Who'd have thought that your ointment was so effective, Dear? There's not even

the slightest hint of a scar!" Natasha caressed her face in awe.

"I told you that there wouldn't be a

scar, didn't I? Do you trust me now?" Dustin smiled.

"This is brilliant! Immortunol can restore a person's beauty, and this ointment can

heal wounds without leaving a scar. If we put both of them together, they'd

be a hit!" A superb idea hit Natasha then and there, and her eyes lit up.

"Can y

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ou produce this ointment in large volumes, Dear? With advertising done right,

I'm certain this will be our next bestseller!"

"You've got such a sharp mind! But I'm afraid I'm going to have to let you

down this time." Dustin shook his head with an amused smile. "The ingredient

s used for this ointment are too precious. Some of them are worth their weight

in gold, so it'd be tough to manufacture them in bulk. I only make them for my

own use."

"What a shame." Natasha was disappointed at the missed opportunity to haul i

n yet another fortune. As a self-

made businesswoman, it was almost instinctive for her to identify and seize every opportunity to generate income and profit.

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“Of course, if you think that it’s got potential, I can change up the formula a bit,

” Dustin suggested. “I can swap out the rare herbs for other more common ing

redients, and it’ll bring down the cost by several folds. However, the effects will be affected

“How so? Will it still be able to heal wounds without leaving scars and rejuvenate the skin?”

Natasha probed.

“Of course, it will, but it’ll take a longer time for wounds to heal,” Dustin answered.

“That wouldn’t be a problem as long as it could work.” Natasha’s eyes lit up again.

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“Alright, I’ll pass you the formula in a few days then.” Dustin smiled.

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“We’ve got a deal! As usual, we’ll split the profit in half!” Natasha beamed at him. She was glad to have found yet another source of income, and she was confident that as long as they advertised it well, this ointment would generate no less income for them than the Immortunol had.

“Sis...” Just then, Ruth came in through the door. “Dad wants to meet you in the meeting room.”

“Okay.” Natasha nodded and was about to bring Dustin along with her.

“Sis, Dad said that he wants to meet you alone,” Ruth said.

“Alone?” Natasha raised a brow.

“Maybe it’s something private,” Dustin said as he shot her a smile. “Run along; I’ll wait for you in the banquet hall.”

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“Okay. I’ll be back soon.” Natasha then quickly left with Ruth. Dustin stretched lazily before he left for the banquet hall.

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It was the day of Hector’s 50th birthday celebration, and many elites and prominent figures showed up for the event. Though the banquet had yet to commence, there was already quite a crowd in the banquet hall, and more guests arrived as time went on.

“Dustin? What are you doing here?” Dustin heard a woman ask from behind him. He turned around to see several familiar faces that he had met once, quite

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some time ago. They were Adriana, Zoey, Gordon, Zeke, and several others.

These were Natasha's classmates from her school days.

The first time he met them, Adriana had some troubles due to her contract and

was harassed by a manager working for the Langfords. He had helped her out

of the situation and beaten up the manager. After Luis Langford returned to

Stonia, Dustin had never met these people again, so it was quite a surprise to

meet them again.

"Hey! I asked you a question! Why are you not answering me? How rude!" Zo

ey was displeased by

his reaction, or rather, the lack of it.

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“Of course, I’m here to celebrate Mr. Harmon’s birthday. Why else would I be here?” Dustin stated calmly. Apart from Adriana, this bunch of people had not left a good impression on him.

“Hah! I see you’re still hounding Natasha! Don’t you know where you stand?”

Zeke ridiculed.

“I’ve got a piece of advice for you, Dustin. Natasha is the heiress of a wealthy family. She’s way out of your league, so you better take a good look in the mirror before you come bothering her,” Gordon said meanly.

They saw Dustin as nothing more than a typical boy toy who had no means of providing for

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himself and only knew how to sweet-talk women, so they deemed him unfit for their sophisticated circle. “You should stop looking down on others. How do you know that she’s out of my league?” Dustin asked. “Hah! You’re just a country doctor with no social standing, a prominent background, or any skills. How could you ever be good enough for Natasha?” Gordon questioned condescendingly. “How ignorant.” With a shake of his head, Dustin turned to leave. He could not be bothered to exchange words with such close-minded people. To begin with, it wasn’t like they were chummy, so he saw no need to engage in a conversation with them.

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“You stand right there!” Zoey blocked his way and frowned as she reproached him. “What’s up with your attitude, Dustin? Had Gordon not spoken to Mr. Langford on your behalf back when you beat up their manager, they’d most likely have maimed you so badly that you’d be crippled now! Gordon saved you! But not only are you unappreciative of his kindness, you even give him such an attitude? Do you have any manners?”

“Exactly! You’ve got Gordon to thank for helping you out! Do you think you’d still be alive had it not been for him?” Zeke echoed. When Gordon heard what they had to say about him, he straightened up and puffed up his chest proudly.

“He saved me?”

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Dustin found them ridiculous. “You lot must be deluded. I did teach the man a lesson; there’s no mistaking that. But I definitely did not need any saving from Gordon. Besides, he isn’t capable of doing so either.”

“What?” Gordon’s expression darkened when he heard Dustin’s words. “Who do you think you are? And who are you to say whether or not I’m capable of doing anything?”

“Well, am I wrong? If you were capable of saving me, then why didn’t you do anything when you were beaten up?” Dustin refuted.

“You-

” Gordon was silenced. It was still embarrassing for him to recall how the Langford manager had busted his head with a bottle.

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“Stop spouting nonsense, Rhys!” Zeke glared at him and raised his voice. “They had the numbers, and we were at a disadvantage; that was the only reason why we endured it. We made them pay for it after!”

“That’s right! Only a brute would act hastily. Gordon’s a gentleman, it’s only a given that he wouldn’t lower his standards to that of a brute’s!” Zoey parroted.

“Better to be a brute than a chicken.” Dustin didn’t hold back. “You took everything they did to you without so much as a protest; how dare you brag and talk smack to me now?”

They all flushed in embarrassment at Dustin’s words.
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“Y—

you, you ... What did you just say?! Where are your manners, you uncultured

swine? How vulgar!” Zoey was upset by Dustin’s words. Although Dustin calmly spoke, his words hit right where they hurt.

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“You’re right! A country bumpkin will always be a country bumpkin! He’s got no manners at all!” Zeke was livid. With his privileged background and high educational status, he had never been insulted in such a manner, much less by someone who he considered much lower in status than him.

“The way I behave depends on the person I’m talking to. Do you expect me to treat you with respect when you’re blatantly belittling me?” Dustin asked coldly.

“You!” Zoey clenched her jaws and found that she was at a loss for words. “Come on, we’re all Natasha’s friends. Let’s not make things ugly over a small matter.” Adriana quickly tried to smooth things over and ease the tension when

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n she saw that things were starting to escalate. It was Mr. Harmon's 50th birthday celebration today. There was no d

oubt they'd be creating trouble for the Harmons if they were to have a row there.

"Forget it. Let's just ignore the loser. We don't want to stoop down to his level.

" Gordon swiftly collected himself and shot Dustin a scornful look.

"You're right. It's wasted effort debating with uncultured people." Zoey shot Dustin a side-eye.

"Hah! He's just a boy toy with a glib tongue. What else is he capable of?" Zeke insulted.

"Chicken." Dustin spat before finding a seat by the side and proceeded promptly to ignore them.

ly to ignore them.

"You!" They were so irked that they almost lost their cool again. They had start

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ed out intending to disgrace Dustin in order to make him stay away from
Nata
sha and to flaunt their superiority, but in the end, they failed miserably. Not
onl
y did they not gain an upper hand over Dustin, he even put them to shame.
It
was frustrating indeed!
Just as they were
still indignant over the unpleasant exchange, a commotion broke out by
the en
trance. They looked up to see a hunky man clad in military uniform, with
two adjutants following behind him. Following close beside him was a
charmin
g woman with a shapely figure.
“Hey, who’s the army man? He looks so cool!” Zoey’s eyes lit up.
“If I’m not mistaken, he should be Mr. Jacob’s son, Dylan Harmon!”
Gordon an

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swered.

“Dylan Harmon? What a nice name!” Zoey’s eyes remained glued to Dylan.

“As far as I know, Dylan’s a high-ranking commander in an elite unit. He’s just one step away from becoming a general. He has a mighty bright future ahead!” Gordon exclaimed enviously.

Dylan’s return had been quite the talk of the town recently. Countless scions of prominent families tried their best to curry favor with him due to his high military position and also because he was from the Dark Panther Cavalry.

“He is hot, comes from a wealthy family, and to top it all off, he is crazy talented. Where do you find a man like this? I think I’m in love!” Zoey swooned over Dylan with hearts

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coming out of her eyes. He was powerful, rich, and, most importantly, handsome

me. Was he not the embodiment of the
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man of her dreams?

“Zoey, I don’t mean to discourage you, but people like Dylan are bound to have

the crazy high standards. They won’t fall for the regular girl,” Gordon reminded her.

“Nothing is for sure. I have the advantage of having Natasha on my side. Who

knows? Things might just work out?” Zoey wasn’t the least bit discouraged by

Gordon’s reminder. She wasn’t about to let such an exceptional man slip past

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her fingers now that he had appeared in front of her.

“Hey Gordon, who’s the lady beside Dylan Harmon? She’s beautiful and very elegant, I must say!” As opposed to Zoey, Zeke had his eyes on the lady. “She’s Dylan’s cousin and Mr. Trent’s daughter, Kate Harmon,” Gordon introduced.

“Kate Harmon? That’s a sweet name!” Zeke rubbed his chin and asked cheekily,

“Say, do you think I stand a chance, Gordon?”

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“You have just about as much chance of winning her over as I have with Natasha,” Gordon told him bluntly. Kate was as

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beautiful as Natasha, so it would not be easy to court her. Zeke laughed. He said excitedly, “Then we’ll both have to work harder!” “The Harmon family has such perfect genes! Every one of them looks gorgeous. If I marry Dylan, I’m sure we’ll have such beautiful babies!” Zoey exclaimed giddily. Her words left the rest of them speechless. She had not even so much as spoken a word with him, and she was already thinking about having his babies? “Hey! It looks like they’re coming our way! Could he have noticed my beauty so soon? Oh no! Is my makeup in perfect condition?” Zoey was overjoyed to see Dylan walking in their direction and immediately whipped out her compact mirror to touch up her makeup. Gor

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don and Zeke swiftly sucked in their stomach and puffed up their chests, trying to look like distinguished gentlemen. “Dylan, that guy in white is Dustin Rhys, Natasha’s good-for-nothing boyfriend. Had it not been for him, our family would not be in such trouble. Besides, my brother Quentin’s death was also because of him!” Kate caught sight of Dustin sipping on his tea the moment she came in through the door. A cold glint of hatred flashed in her eyes. “Why is Natasha still hanging around such a pain in the neck? Has she been blinded by him?” Dylan was annoyed by his presence. “It’s too bad I’m a woman, or

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I'll make sure to teach him a good lesson!" Kate egged on.

"Leave the dirty

job to me, Kate. I'll make sure he learns a lesson he'll never forget!" A

wicked

smile spread across Dylan's face as he took a glass of wine from a nearby

wai

ter and discreetly added some unknown powder to it.

"What did you put in the wine, Dylan?" Kate was quick to notice Dylan's

action

as she stood right beside him.

"Nothing much, just a potent laxative." Dylan smirked. "As soon as he

drinks t

his, he will lose control over his bowels and shit himself within minutes. I

like t

o see if he'll still have the balls to stick around the Harmon family after

that."

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“You have such a brilliant idea!” Kate’s eyes sparkled. Dustin wouldn’t be able to face anyone after wetting and soiling himself in front of an audience. What Dylan was about to pull would absolutely crush Dustin!

“Just wait and see, Kate. I’ll get you your revenge.” Dylan winked at her before approaching Dustin with his men.

“He’s coming, he’s coming! He’s really coming our way!” Zoey was so excited she was on the verge of losing her composure when she saw Dylan approaching. Without waiting any longer, she stood up to greet him. “Mr. Harmon ...” The rest of her sentence was left stuck in her throat as Dylan walked past her with

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hout sparing her a glance and stopped in front of Dustin.

“What?” They were all left

frozen in place awkwardly, as they had all assumed that Dylan was heading to

ward them, when in fact, he had been heading toward Dustin.

Chapter 556

“You’re Dustin Rhys?” Dylan looked down his nose at Dustin arrogantly.

“I’ve

heard that you’re quite close with my cousin, Natasha, and that you’ve helped

her out of some tough situations. As a token of my appreciation, I’d like to sha

re a drink with you.”

With that, Dylan handed him the glass of wine he was holding. That left Zoey

and the rest of them gaping in awe. It was beyond their expectation that some

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one like Dylan, who held a high military position and had a promising future, w

ould offer Dustin a drink. Who was Dustin to deserve such a show of respect?

As Zoey, Gordon, and the rest looked on with envy, Dustin glanced at the glas

s of wine and spat icily, "I'm not drinking that. Get lost." A deathly silence fell o

ver the crowd.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 557 -

Chapter 557

"I'm not drinking that. Get lost." Dustin's words were short and sweet, but he b

rought a deathly

hush over the hall.

All eyes were on Dylan the moment he entered. There were numerous people

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present who would do anything to gain his favor, so when they witnessed Dylan offering Dustin a drink, the onlookers, including Zoey, Gordon, and Zeke, were astonished. Jealous, even. It was definitely something worth bragging about to have someone like Dylan offer you a drink. However, they had never expected Dustin to actually turn him down and even arrogantly dismiss him. What was the meaning of that? Was Dustin really so full of himself? “What did you just say?” Not only were the onlookers surprised, but even Dylan couldn’t believe his ears. He was a Harmon, a high-ranking commander in the Dark Panther Cavalry, and a future general! No ma

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After where he went, people would fawn over him and go out of their way to please him. Just a smile from him could make someone's day, so shouldn't regular people feel honored that he'd offer them a drink? How dare this rascal turn down the wine he had offered?

"Didn't you hear me? I said, get lost," Dustin repeated himself in the same cold manner.

"How dare you?"

"You insolent bastard!"

"You've crossed the line!"

The crowd was in an uproar. All those who were trying to get into Dylan's good

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d books stood up for him, hurling profanities at Dustin. People who weren't in t

he know might have thought they held some deep-seated grudge against Dustin.

"Is that scoundrel out of his damn mind? How dare he speak so rudely to a co

mmander?" Zoey was

bewildered. She had never imagined that Dustin would be so daring as to behave with such insolence toward Dylan. He obviously held no regard for Dylan's status and position.

"Hah! He's going to get what he deserves for being so arrogant! I'd like to see

how Dylan is going to deal with him!" Zeke gloated gleefully at Dustin's impen

ding misfortune.

"What an idiot!" Gordon shook his head with a smile on his face.

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Adriana remained quiet, worry creeping into her eyes. Dustin had left quite a good impression on her, and she could tell he was a responsible and courageous man. However, she had to admit that he had acted too rashly. “You bastard! How dare you disrespect my superior? I’ll shoot you in the head!” An adjutant roared furiously, it had taken him a brief moment to react. “I don’t believe you will,” Dustin calmly replied. “You!” The adjutant choked on his words. Had they been at the borders, he’d already have shot Dustin many times over, but with so many civilian onlookers, he dared not act impulsively.

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“Do you know who I am, punk? How dare you speak to me like that?”

Dylan a

sked icily, a menacing glint in his eyes. He was not going to let this scoundrel,

who had just humiliated him in public, off so easily.

1/2

Chapter 557

“So what if I do? My answer remains the same. I’m not drinking that, so buzz

off.” Dustin wasn’t

intimidated by him.

Dylan was so infuriated that he burst out laughing. “I see you want to do this t

he hard way, you bastard! There has never been anyone who’s disgraced me

in such a manner before. Let me make it clear, if you don’t finish this glass of

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wine, there's no way you're walking out that door!" Dylan's words were clearly a threat.

"Hey, it's an honor to have Mr. Harmon offer you a drink! If you know what's good for you, just take it, man!"

"That's right! Drink up, or you'll be sorry!"

Many of the onlookers chimed in, taking Dylan's side.

"Dustin, my cousin has quite a nasty temper. You better drink up, or he'll be s

ure to kick up a fuss,

"Kate egged him

on with a mocking expression. She was dying for things to get out of hand so t

hat Natasha and Dylan would be at opposite ends, and she'd be able to reap the greatest benefit

out of the fiasco, which was having Dylan on her side.

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 558 -
Chapter 558

“Whoever wants the drink can have it, but it’s not going to be me.” Dustin
rem

ained unfazed by the comments and derogatory remarks hurled his way.

“Well, that’s not up to you!” Dylan’s expression turned cold. “Boys, make
him d

rink it!”

‘Yes, sir!’ The two adjutants immediately went up to Dustin, ready to
force the

drink down his throat

“Buzz off.” With two backhanded slaps, Dustin sent the two adjutants
sprawlin

g on the ground, blood streaming from their noses and their teeth broken.

The

y scrambled to get back up but failed miserably.

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“Holy shit! The guy’s getting violent!” The onlookers were startled and enraged by what they saw. Assaulting military personnel was a major offense, and when the situation called for it, they were authorized to use their guns. “You’ve got a death wish, you bastard!” Dylan finally had it when he saw two adjutants being slapped. He swiftly threw a punch at Dustin’s face. As a high-ranking commander of the Dark Panther Cavalry, it went without saying that he was skilled in martial arts. Currently, he was an entry level divine martial artist, considered one of the best among his peers.

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Dustin did not duck or sidestep Dylan's punch. Instead, he grabbed Dylan's incoming fist with his bare hand. A dull thud resonated as Dylan's fist made contact with Dustin's palm. Dylan was utterly shocked, struggling to comprehend how Dustin could achieve such a feat. Though he had yet to exert his full force, he was a divine-level martial artist! Just a light punch from him was enough to send a regular person flying. He was certain that Dustin was also a skilled martial artist. "I see you're well-versed in martial arts too. No wonder you're so arrogant. I suppose I'll have to

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show you what I'm capable of today." Dylan declared, removing his coat. He was ready to go all out. Though Dustin had managed to catch his punch, Dylan still had the confidence that he'd be able to pulverize him. "I've been putting up with you for Natasha's sake. I do not wish to hurt you, but if you insist on taking advantage of my kindness, I'm afraid I'll not be so polite anymore," Dustin said coldly. "Hurt me? Hahaha! What a joke!" Dylan looked at Dustin contemptuously. "Do you think that you can act so arrogantly just because you think you know some martial arts? Just so you know, I could easily kill you with just a flick of my finger!"

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“Is that so? By all means, go ahead.” Dustin remained unfazed.

“Very well, I’ll teach you a lesson today that there are always people out there

who are better than you!”

Just as Dylan channeled his true energy and

was about to attack, a loud voice boomed throughout the hall.

“Hold it right there!” Hector marched in with several others behind

him. “What’s going on here? It’s my birthday

celebration today, and you’re at each other’s throats?” Hector’s burning gaze

swept across the hall. Anyone who met his eyes immediately lowered their head

and, paying respect to the leader of the Harmon family.

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Chapter 558

“Uncle Hector, this guy started it!” Dylan pointed an accusing finger at Dustin. “

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I offered him a drink as a gesture of appreciation, but not only did he refuse it, he even went so far as to insult me! I couldn't stand it, so I thought I'd teach him a lesson!"

"Is that true?" Hector's eyes narrowed.

"I can vouch for

Dylan, Uncle Hector. Dustin was so proud and rude, and he had completely no

respect for the Harmon family," Kate piped up.

"That's right, we can attest to that too! The rascal had no regard for propriety,

and he really crossed the line!" The onlookers stood up for Dylan. From what they

saw, Dustin was clearly the one who picked the fight.

"Hang on, there must be some confusion. I don't believe Dustin would do something

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ething like that!” Natasha defended Dustin.

“Natasha, with

so many eyewitnesses here, are you really going to stand up for him?”

Kate s

coffed.

“Do you have anything to say about

this, Dustin?” Hector turned his attention to him.

“It’s true that I refused the drink Dylan

offered me.” Hector frowned when he heard

that. Even Natasha was caught off guard.

“See, Uncle Hector? You heard it from him. He admitted it himself!”

Dylan smir

ked, shooting Dustin a taunting look.

But what Dustin said

next left the smirk frozen on his face. “And that’s because he spiked the drink

...

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 559 -
Chapter 559

“He spiked the wine?” Everyone looked at Dylan in shock. If that was the case, then it would make sense for Dustin to refuse the drink. “You What nonsense!” Dylan had a sinking feeling, but he forced himself to appear composed as he roared, “Do you know who I am? Why would I spike you r drink? You’re dragging my reputation through the mud!” He had no idea how Dustin could tell that the e had been spiked, but there was no way he was going to admit to doing it. “That’s right! My cousin offered you a drink, and you not only turned him down, but you even accused him of such dirty tricks? You truly are cunning!”
Kate f

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eigned anger.

“Hah! I think someone’s just here to cause trouble!”

“What a heinous crime to slander a military officer!”

“We should just kick him out! He’s despicable!”

In a clamor of voices, the crowd accused and scolded Dustin. With their preconceived notions, they clearly believed Dylan more than they did Dustin.

“Dustin, do you have any proof for claiming that Dylan spiked the wine?” Hect

or asked.

“Exactly! Don’t go around making accusations without any proof!” Some of the Harmons were indignant.

“You want proof? It’s simple.” Dustin picked up the glass of wine and placed it

in front of Dylan. Since you claim that you didn’t spike it, why don’t you drink this to prove there’s nothing wrong with the wine?”

his to prove there’s nothing wrong with the wine?”

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Dylan's face fell. He would make a mess of himself if he drank that.

"Why should he? Just because you say so? Who do you think you are?" Kate defended Dylan.

"That's right! Who do you think you are? And what right do you have to make me drink it?" Dylan challenged.

"Oh, so you dare not drink it then?" Dustin sniggered.

"If the wine hasn't been spiked, Dylan, then what's the harm in drinking it?" Natasha had a slight smile on her face. She could tell

from his reaction that Dylan had indeed spiked the wine, but Dustin saw through his tricks at once, and that was what gave rise to the conflict between them.

"We believe in you, Mr. Harmon! It's just a glass of wine. Drink it and show him!"

"That's right! Prove it to him that you have done no such thing! Put him to sha

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me!”

“Yes, Dylan, drink it! We’re all rooting for you!”

The crowd began cheering Dylan on, acting like they were all that righteous.

The corners of Dylan’s lips twitched as he sweated profusely. With so many

eyes on him, he’d raise suspicion if he refused to drink the wine, but if he did,

he’d lose control over his bowels and make a

fool of himself. He’d be in such a terrible mess. Caught in a dilemma, he had n

o way out of the predicament. He had only intended to teach Dustin a lesson.

Who’d have guessed he’d put

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Chapter 559

himself in such a difficult position?

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“Alright, alright! Let’s not cause a scene here!” Noticing that something wasn’t

right, Trent called out to the crowd to defuse the situation. “Today’s a special d

ay. Let’s not spoil it over some petty issues! Please be seated, everyone.

The

banquet will start shortly!”

The crowd quietened down upon hearing his words. Most of them who had th

eir wits around could already guess the truth behind

the whole debacle. However, out of respect for the Harmon family, they

kept q

uiet and feigned ignorance.

“Consider yourself lucky, you bastard! I’m only letting you

off the hook for Uncle Hector’s sake, as it’s his birthday celebration

today!” Dyl

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an spat menacingly before he turned and took his seat. He thanked his lucky stars that his Uncle Trent came out at the right moment to smooth things over, sparing him from an embarrassing situation. But despite the circumstances, he still had to gain an upper hand over Dustin. The disturbance was finally brought to a halt by Trent's interference. However, Natasha was left disgruntled. "Dad, Dylan was obviously the one who started it. Are you just going to let it slide?" "We have more important matters to deal with today. We cannot afford to mess up now," Hector said gravely as he shook his head. Of course, he could tell what had transpired, but at this point, they were banking on Dylan's

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position to put pressure on Tyler, so he could not tell Dylan off even if he was

at fault. At the moment, it was crucial for the family to stand united.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 560 -

Chapter 560

“That’s it?”

Natasha was extremely displeased. Naturally, she wasn’t willing to swallow her

anger when her man was being mistreated.

“Natasha, let’s look at the big picture. Why don’t you sit down?” Hector gave her

a look. Then, he led the others to sit at the

tables allocated for the Harmons. The ten tables at

the very front of the ballroom were designated for the core members of the Harmon

family as well as the other bigwigs in the family. The regular guests were

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relegated to the back.

“Darling, I’m sorry for the injustice. I’ll definitely find an opportunity for a
a
payback!” Natasha said through gritted teeth.

“It’s nothing but a petty issue. Don’t worry about me. Go and keep your
father
company.” Dustin smiled lightly. Her saying that was already good enough
for
him.

“What, you don’t want to sit with me?” Natasha raised an eyebrow.

“No, guests shouldn’t sit
with the stars of the evening. I’ll just sit here. Not to mention, sitting
too close to Dylan might invite trouble.” Dustin shook his head.
The front seats drew too much attention; he didn’t like being noticed by so
ma
ny people.

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“Alright.” Natasha didn’t push him further after he expressed his opinion.

After

greeting a few of her classmates, she returned to her seat.

After she left, Gordon suddenly said out of the blue, “Dustin, if I were

you, I’d a

pologize to

Dylan right now. You can’t afford to get on the bad side of a golden child like him!”

“Really? I guess...” Dustin couldn’t be bothered to entertain the nonsense and

gave a half-assed reply.

“Hmph! You’ll find out soon enough!” Gordon chuckled coldly and said nothing more. In his eyes, with that arrogant attitude, Dustin was bound to fac

e consequences sooner or later.

Time slowly ticked by, and more guests arrived

to join the celebration. The entire ballroom was alive with chatter.

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“Hey, isn’t that Mr. Reynolds from the Goldmore Group? I heard he’s worth bill

ions and is also the top player in the mining industry!”

“Oh? Even the emerald tycoon, Mr. Dane is here?”

“Look, I think that’s Mr. Gills from the Royal Pavilion, also known as the all–

powerful lord of the underworld!”

“As expected of the Harmons. I didn’t expect so many bigshots to show up. Th

is is really impressive!”

Seeing these local celebrities enter the

ballroom, Zoey and the others were bubbling with excitement. They never got

to see such an extravagant display in their everyday lives. Looking across the

room, they were met with the presence of prominent figures in their society, w

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Whether it was the filthy rich or the magnates in their respective fields.

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Any one of them could cause a huge ripple in the outside world. Yet, they had

all gathered there.

Truly, this was an assembly of the elite and the powerful!

“Not bad. It seems like our family still holds some influence,” Trend said from t

he front-row seats, observing the lively ballroom with a wide grin.

“Why, of course! When our family throws a birthday party, I can’t think of anyo

ne who wouldn’t respect us enough to not attend,” Jacob said proudly. As one

of the Fabulous Five, certain connotations and pride came with it.

“Trent, Jacob, don’t celebrate just yet. With just these people, I’m afraid we wo

n’t be able to keep Tyler in check,” Hector said indifferently.

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“Uncle Hector, don’t worry. With me here, Tyler wouldn’t dare act out of line!”

Dylan said haughtily. That’s right! My son holds a high position and has the support of the Scarlet Warrior. Even Tyler will

have to show him some respect!” Jacob laughed. When it came to his son, he

had unconditional trust in him.

At that moment, a butler leaned close and whispered, “Mr. Hector, I just received

word that the Grants have begun to make their move.”

“Are they finally coming?” Hector sucked in a deep breath. “Since we can’t hide

them, then let’s meet them head-on. We will stick to the plan!”

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 561 -
Chapter 561

Meanwhile, at the Grants' mansion, Tyler sat in the study, quietly poring over war strategy books. He gave each and every word on the page his undivided attention.

Suddenly, there was a series of knocks on the door.

"What is it?" Tyler asked without turning his head.

"Mr. Grant, the big day has arrived, We should head out," an elderly voice said

from outside the door

Tyler set the book down and got to his feet. After straightening his clothes, he

opened the door and walked out. An aged servant stood outside the door, waiting

for him with his head bowed.

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“How are the Harmons reacting?” Tyler asked with an indifferent look. “The Harmons haven’t started preparing for the wedding yet. Instead, they’re throwing a birthday party,” the man replied. “Birthday party?” Tyler’s mouth twitched. “Is that supposed to put pressure on me? How amusing.” “Mr. Grant, should we fetch the bride another day?” the man asked tentatively. “Since the engagement is today, it can’t be changed. We’ll follow the schedule as planned,” Tyler said coolly. “Also, find me a coffin and bring it straight to the Harmons’ home.” “A coffin?” The man was momentarily taken aback. “Mr. Grant, what do you want to do with that?”

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Weren't they going to pick up the bride? What did the coffin have to do with it?

"The wedding carriage is to escort the bride, while the coffin is for bodies. If the Harmon family agrees to the marriage, I'll naturally use the carriage. If they don't, then I'll make them lay in the coffin," Tyler said apathetically.

Upon hearing that, the man couldn't help but shudder. He knew that his master was always a man of his word. If the Harmon family didn't

know what was good for them, they might end up completely destroyed!

"Why are you still standing there? Go do as I say." Tyler gave him a sidelong glance.

"Yes." Not daring to hesitate, the man immediately left.

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“Hmph, you want to play games with me? Well, let’s see whether you can hold off my army.” Tyler laughed coldly. He didn’t mind the Harmons playing tricks, but in the face of absolute power, any wile would be for naught. At that moment, the Harmon estate was still bustling with excitement. Looking across the room, distinguished guests filled the seats. It was a gathering of the exalted; the wealthy and powerful exchanged toasts and chatted among themselves. Meanwhile, Dustin sat quietly in a corner, looking like an outsider

.
In contrast, Gordon, who was sitting at the other table, wouldn’t stop greeting people.

“Well, if it isn’t Mr. Bolls! What a pleasure to see you!”

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“Oh, Ms. Pickens, you’re here too. My father talks a lot about you.”

“Hahaha, Mr. Solinsky, what a surprise to run into you here. It must be fate. Let

’s grab a meal together sometime.”

Gordon stood, chatting and laughing with all the guests, showcasing his extensive

network.

“Gordon, was that Mr. Bolls, the famous jewel tycoon?” Zeke couldn’t help but

ask, curious.

“That’s right. Mr. Bolls has a net worth of several billions of dollars, and he owns half the jewels in Millsburg. He’s a true titan in the industry!”

Gordon grinned.

“No way! Gordon, you’re really impressive. How did you get to know people of

such high caliber?” Zoey asked with a look of admiration.

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Billionaires weren't the kind of people you could meet just anywhere. "Heh, not just Mr. Bolls, but Ms. Pickens is also no average Joe. She controls a substantial amount of mineral resources—you could say she's made of money! Also, there's Mr. Solinsky. He's the son of an extremely wealthy man, he's got a bright future ahead of him and a lot of power!" Gordon introduced each of them giddily, his face glowing with pride. "Gordon, who would've thought you'd been hiding this all along? I have to admit, it's amazing!" Zeke gave him a thumbs-up. "Exactly! You're probably the most spectacular one out of all of us!" Zoey said, buttering him up. As she spoke, she even snuck a glance at Dustin and continued

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nued cynically, “Hey, Dustin, did you see that? This is the difference between you and Gordon. Not only is he rich, but he’s also wellconnected. You’ll never reach his level in your entire lifetime!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 562 - Chapter 562

“She’s right!” Zeke added. “Rhys, here’s a word of advice. You’d better leave

Natasha as soon as possible, or you’d just be humiliating yourself!”

Dustin wasn’t bothered enough to entertain them. He simply minded his own b

usiness, sipping at his drink. Yet, his lofty attitude pissed them off even more.

“Hpmh, weren’t you acting all cool earlier? Has the cat got your tongue? That’

s all you’re good for,” Zoey said with a cold laugh. To her, it was obvious that

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Dustin was feeling ashamed of himself.

“Let it go. Let him keep some of his dignity, or you’ll back him into a corner,” Gordon teased with a smile. Dustin was just a b

rute who knew a move or two, he really didn’t think too highly of him.

At that moment, Zoey seemed to

have noticed something. She pointed at the door and asked, “Hey, who’s that

? He’s really good-looking and even has a certain air about him.”

The others turned their heads to look, and their gazes fell upon a handsome man walking inside, holding a folding fan. A faint smile adorned his face, and

he carried an air of grace, each movement looked effortlessly elegant.

“Damn! Isn’t that Patrick Hill, the son of the Hill family? Who would’ve thought

that he’d show up too?” Zeke couldn’t help but gape at the sight of the man.

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“Patrick Hill? Isn’t that one of the renowned Ten Princes of the South Province?” Zoey’s eyes widened.

“Yes, that’s him!” Zeke nodded. “That’s the top aristocrat of Millsburg!

His stat

us is even higher than Dylan’s!”

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Chapter 562

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Dustin wasn’t bothered enough to entertain them. He simply minded his own b

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Chapter 562

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 563 -

Chapter 563

"What?"

Gordon and the others were dumbfounded by how politely and courteously Pa

trick had spoken to Dustin. Their eyes were round with disbelief.

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The son of the Hill family—
one of the Ten Princes of South Province, dubbed the top aristocrat— had
actu
ally greeted that jerk with a smile?
How was that even possible?!

“No way. Dustin knows Mr. Hill?” The smile on Zoey’s face turned to ice.
She
had initially thought
that Patrick had walked over for Gordon, never in her wildest dreams
would sh
e have thought that he was there for Dustin. Not to mention, from the way
they
were acting, it seemed like they were
close.

“How the hell did that punk climb
his way up to become friends with Mr. Hill?!” Shock aside, Zeke was
more jeal

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ous than anything. What right did a loser have to hit it off with the top aristocrat?
t?

“How could this be?” Gordon was rooted to the spot, astonishment written on his face. It was one thing to be ignored by Patrick, but he couldn’t come to terms with how the person he had to suck up to was so polite to Dustin.

Wasn’t Dustin just a country doctor? How did he get acquainted with a big shot of this caliber?

“It seems like there’s more to Natasha’s boyfriend than meets the eye,” Adrian

ad muttered to herself as she observed everything from a distance. Curiosity sparked in her eyes

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yes.

“Mr. Hill, it’s in the past. Further, it had nothing to do with you,” Dustin answered lightly.

The Hill family had already personally apologized for beating Edmund up, and

Torben had also already paid the price. It would do no one any good to keep dredging things up.

“Dustin, you’re truly magnanimous. My grandfather greatly admires stand–

up men like you. If you have time, I’d love to host you at my home.”

Patrick ext

ended the invite with a smile.

“Sure. When I have time, I’ll definitely pay Sir Hill a visit,” Dustin replied, noddi

ng lightly. He deeply respected the Hill family patriarch, Paul, not just for his p

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ower but also for his sense of justice, his willingness to help the needy, and hi

s ability to separate kindness and hatred

“Mr. Hill, it’s an honor to have you here, especially since you came from afar!”

At that moment, Kate approached them. With a slight smile, she continued, “Y

ou’re an honored guest, so it’s only fitting that you occupy the seat of honor. P

lease follow me.”

“No, thank you. I’ll sit here.” Patrick politely declined with a smile before taking

a seat next to

Dustin.

Seeing this, Kate’s smile stiffened slightly, but she quickly regained her composure.

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sure. “Of course, Mr. Hill. Please feel free to let me know if you need anything at any time.” She didn’t push him. After giving him a final smile, she turned around and returned to her seat. Before she walked away, however, she gave Dustin an inscrutable glance.

“Just who is Dustin? How can he get on so well with Mr. Hill?” Zoey’s expression turned strange as she watched the two men chatting and smiling at the next table.

Chapter 563

“Hmph, what’s so impressive about that!” Zeke said, his voice dripping with jealousy. “To me, he’s just riding on Natasha’s coattails. Otherwise, why would

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Mr. Hill hold him in such high regard?”

“You’re right!” Gordon nodded in agreement. “Mr. Hill is on a different level. If i

t wasn’t out of respect for the daughter of the Harmon family, would he give a l

oser like Dustin the time of day?”

“So that’s what it is...” Zoey suddenly had an epiphany. Disdain colored her fa

ce as she said, “I actually thought he was kind of impressive, but in the end, h

e’s just relying on his rich girlfriend to climb up. Men like him will always strugg

le to reach the higher circles.”

The three of them took turns belittling Dustin. The way they saw it, it must be

because Natasha was close friends with Patrick, and as the gigolo, Dustin wa

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s merely riding on her coattails.

All of a sudden, their moods improved.

Time slowly ticked by, and the party finally kicked off. After all the guests took

their seats,

Hector, the birthday celebrant, raised his glass and stood. In a booming voice,

he said, “Welcome,

dear friends, to my birthday celebration. I’m extremely honored. I hope you’ll e

njoy the food and drink to your heart’s content!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 564 -

Chapter 564

“Now, I’d like to propose a toast! Hector raised his glass, swept his gaze over

all the guests, and

downed his drink.

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In response, everyone stood and raised their glass to toast in return. After some small talk, it was time for the gift-giving segment. “Mr. Harmon, here are some golden horses that I forged with my own hands. I wish you nothing but success in life!” “Mr. Harmon, this crystal necklace once belonged to an ancient king. I hope you like it.” “Mr. Harmon, this painting is an authentic masterpiece by Picasso. It’s truly a priceless treasure. That being said, I wish you the best of health and a lifetime full of smiles ahead!” One by one, the guests stepped up with their gifts in hand, offering their heartfelt birth day wishes. There were numerous rich and respected

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people among them, and this gift-giving segment was also a subtle display of comparison and competition. The one with the rarest and most expensive gift got to show off. They could display their power and foster closer connections with the Harmons. Thus, each gift, consisting of precious treasures or rare items, was carefully chosen. Not to mention, a lot of them couldn't be bought with money alone.

Thank you, everyone, for your kind thoughts.” Hector smiled, responding to all

the people who had presented him with a gift.

As the room was filled with a joyous atmosphere, a loud voice suddenly rang

out, “The Grant family has arrived!”

Instantly, all eyes turned toward the entrance. Under everyone's gaze, a tall, h

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handsome man strutted in with huge strides with a servant in tow. His face was cold, and his gaze was razor- sharp. He gave off a terrifying aura—his entire body was radiating with an intense desire to kill.

All the guests shuddered, not daring to face him directly.

“Tyler Grant? It’s actually Tyler Grant?!”

“Oh my god! Who would’ve thought that the Harmons were so respected?”

Eve

in General Lionheart, Tyler Grant, personally showed up to celebrate!”

When the guests caught sight of the newcomer, they instantly burst into chatter.

r.

Who in the South Province didn’t know Tyler’s name? He was widely regarded

as a legendary figure. He hadn’t even hit thirty yet, but he was already fraterni-

zing with the high-ranking officials and commanded a massive army.

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In the entire South Province, he was the best of the best. No one could come close to him, leaving any other genius in his shadow. For someone like him, no matter where he went, everyone kissed the ground he walked on!

“As expected of the number one prodigy of the South Province and the top of the Ten Princes! He’s so handsome!” Zoey’s eyes sparkled, and her heart began to flutter.

1/2

In front of Tyler, Dylan and Patrick weren’t even worth mentioning! The man before them was the true prince!

“He’s finally here.” Natasha narrowed her eyes slightly as her pretty face turned

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d serious. She knew that this matter had to end today.

“Tyler, now that you’re here, please take a seat.” Hector stood up to welcome

him, smiling as though nothing had happened.

“No need,” Tyler responded with indifference. “I came here today not to celebr

ate your birthday but to claim my bride. I want to marry Natasha Hamon!”

As he spoke, he made a few gestures with his hands. With that, eight people c

arried a large red carriage into the room.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 565 -

Chapter 565

“What’s going on?”

The crowd glanced at each other and broke out in

whispers at the sight of the wedding carriage being brought in. Wasn’t it

Hecto

r’s 50th birthday? It seemed like Tyler was deliberately stirring up trouble.

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“Tyler, what’s the meaning of this?” Hector’s smile gradually disappeared.

He

didn’t expect Tyler to cut straight to the chase right after his arrival. He

was tru

ly relentless.

“In accordance with our marriage contract, I’m picking up my bride today,” Tyler stated calmly. “Marriage contract? Bride?”

“It can’t be. Tyler and Natasha are engaged?”

“They’re both talented and good-looking,

so it’s not surprising for them to be betrothed. However, this manner of retrieval

ing the bride seems rather abrupt.”

The crowd was buzzing in surprise, confusion, jealousy, and curiosity.

Picking

up the bride at a birthday party was an unprecedented move.

Hector stayed calm and composed. “Tyler, we’ll discuss the details of the marriage

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riage agreement later on. It's my birthday celebration today, so I would appreciate a little consideration."

"That won't do, and nobody can change my mind." Tyler refused immediately without hesitation. "Since I've come today, I must take her away. Natasha, please get on."

As soon as he said that, the crowd was in an uproar. Nobody had anticipated

Tyler to be that domineering. He was not only inconsiderate, he was also kidn

apping the bride. This hardly resembled a conventional bride pick-up; it was a forced marriage!

"Aren't you going too far, Tyler?" Hector's expression turned cold.

"Marriage has always been a matter of mutual consent. Aren't you afraid of pu

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blic ridicule by resorting to force?”

“I have always acted without concern for others’ opinions. Today, whether thro

ugh invitation or coercion, I will marry her!” Tyler raised his voice.

“What if my daughter won’t get married?” Hector frowned slightly.

“She won’t get married?” Tyler’s lips twitched, and he snapped his fingers.

Ver

y soon, a large, black coffin was carried in by eight people. With a loud thud, t

hey placed it down so that it was in line with the carriage and also pointed at H

ector. Tyler stood in the middle, the coffin on his left. and the carriage on his right. The difference in colors was striking.

“These are my presents.” With an expressionless face, he declared, “You hav

e two choices. Either

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Natasha gets on the carriage, or you're going to lay down in this coffin on your own."

"The audacity!"

"How dare you!"

"Tyler Grant, you're crossing the line!"

The Harmons protested in righteous indignation at the sight. Gifting a coffin at

a birthday party

1/2

was a blatant insult and provocation.

"Damn it! He's too much! He's totally disrespecting the Harmons!"

"Though he may be domineering, he undeniably can afford to act that way.

It s

eems like trouble is looming for the Harmons!"

Although

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many were upset with his behavior, nobody dared to voice it out openly.

That

was because no one dared to make an enemy out of the Grants.

“Tyler, are you truly intending to have a fall out with us Harmons in the present

presence of all my esteemed guests?” Hector frowned.

“I told you. You have two choices. Either Natasha marries me, or you die.”

Tyl

er stood with his hands behind his back, a look of arrogance on his face, showing

ing complete disregard for the crowd. “What insolence!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 566 -

Chapter 566

At that moment, Dylan suddenly shot up as he slammed the table. He

bellowed

and, “Tyler Grant, don’t think you can act as you please just because you have s

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ome talent. We're not easy targets!"

"Who are you? Do you have the right to talk to me?" Tyler gave him a cold glance.

"Hmph! Listen up!" Dylan straightened his chest and held his head up high. "M

y name is Dylan

Harmon

I'm currently a high-

ranking commander of the Dark Panther Cavalry. I've fought over a dozen wars and slain hundreds of men!"

"A mere commander is challenging me? Where did you get your courage? Yo

u're not even a deputy general. Tyler spoke indifferently.

"Even though I'm only a commander, Scarlet Spanner is my general! I don't b

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believe you'd dare challenge the Goddess of War!" Dylan responded arrogantly

“Scarlet Spanner? Tyler frowned slightly, finally betraying a hint of emotion. As

Dragonmarsh's first Goddess of War, Scarlet had not only achieved incredible

feats, she came from an influential background and possessed unparalleled

martial skills. He indeed considered himself inferior to her. However, that was

only for now. He was confident of surpassing her within ten years.

“What? Are you afraid?” Dylan was pleased. “Are your legs weak just by hearing

her name? Let me tell you. Don't think you can look down on people just because

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ecause of your little achievements. Just so you know, the world is a big place,
and there are many people better than you out there!” As soon as he said that

, the Harmons clapped in agreement.

“Nicely said!”

“So what if he’s General Lionheart? He still needs to bow down to the Goddesses of War!”

“Ha! You must feel ashamed now after acting so outrageously, huh?”
Seeing Tyler being humiliated, the Harmons were filled with renewed spirits, coming out of their distress.

“He’s indeed my son. He managed to put Tyler in his place with a few words.”

Standing

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in the front rows, Jacob had a proud look on his face. As his son stood in the light, he also basked in the glory.

“That’s right. Without Dylan here today, nobody would have been able to go up against Tyler.”

Trent flashed a wide smile.

A few other older Harmon family members were also filled with awe.

“With a son like him, the Harmons would be elevated to a higher standing!”

For a moment, Dylan became the center of attention, incomparable to anyone

else. Everyone present thought highly of him.

“Hey! What are you still standing there for? Take your men and leave immediately”

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tely! Don't disrupt the party!" Dylan stepped forward and gestured with his chin

, a

look of arrogance on his face. A talented genius? General Lionheart? In the e

nd, he still ended up stepping all over Tyler.

Chapter 566

Suddenly, Tyler dissolved

into laughter. "Do you think you can scare me by using Scarlet's name?"

"What? Aren't you going to show deference to the Goddess of War?"

Dylan re

buked sharply.

"Scarlet Spanner is different from you. You're nothing but her dog! What make

s you think you can show off here?" Tyler sneered.

"Y—you, you dare humiliate me?" Dylan's expression darkened.

"So what if I do? Get lost before I slice your head off!" Tyler exclaimed.

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Dylan erupted in fury. “You’re seeking death!” He stepped lightly, launching a powerful punch as he shot forward. He knew Tyler was a formidable opponent and had exerted all his strength into the punch. He planned on striking first and ending the fight with a single blow.

“Dylan, no!” Hector’s expression shifted as he tried to stop him, but it was too late.

“What a fool.” In the face of Dylan’s attack, Tyler only looked at him in contempt. With a simple point of the finger, he struck Dylan’s chest. A muffled explosion was heard as Dylan flew a good 30 feet back before crashing on the floor. It

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was as if he was hit by a truck. For a moment, he turned pale and spat out blood.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 567 -

Chapter 567

“What?”

The crowd was shocked as they took in Dylan’s seriously injured figure laying

on the ground. Nobody expected Tyler to defeat a high-ranking commander of the Dark Panther Cavalry with just a finger. He was too

powerful. The concerning thing was that Dylan had Scarlet backing him.

When

Tyler injured Dylan in public, it was akin to slapping Scarlet. The crowd won

dered if he was just tyrannically arrogant or fearlessly confident

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“How dare you injure one of us! Do you really think we are easy targets?”

After

recovering from the shock, the Harmons shot up in anger. They could not

tolerate being bullied to such an extent

Tyler Grant! I am a commander of the Dark Panther Cavalry. If you hurt me, S

carlet will never forgive you. Dylan struggled to stand up, feeling shock and an

anger.

Gifted with extraordinary talents and sharp perceptions since he was a child, he

had trained into a divine-

level martial artist at a young age. Armed with the abilities he was proud of, he

never expected to turn out that weak against Tyler.

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It appears like you haven't figured out where you stand." Tyler looked at him in contempt. "I'd naturally give deference to Scarlet if she were here. But what are you? You're just a worthless piece of trash hiding behind someone else's power. How dare you threaten me? Not to mention, the Dark Panther Cavalry has two hundred thousand troops, and over a hundred of them are high-ranking commanders. With Scarlet's position, she probably doesn't even know who you are. What makes you think you can flaunt your power here?" Dylan's expression shifted with his words. He couldn't believe Tyler saw through him. He was indeed a high-

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ranking commander of the Dark Panther Cavalry. However, he wasn't even qualified to meet Scarlet on a typical day. As part of the Dark Panther Cavalry, he had gotten used to using Scarlet's name to boast. No matter where he went, he could act as he pleased. However, he hadn't anticipated encountering such a difficult person like Tyler today. He couldn't win against him in a fight and failed to intimidate him. For a moment, he was at a loss. "Why are you silent? Have I hit the mark? What useless trash." Tyler shook his head in disdain. "Cut the crap! I'm her trusted aide!" Dylan yelled as he hid his cowardice. He co

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uld only continue

the act for now.

“Trusted aide?” The corner of Tyler’s lips curved up into a smile. “Alright, I’ll gi

ve you a chance. I’ll let the Harmons go if you can get Scarlet to come here.”

“She’s stationed at the border. How can she just come here at will?” Dylan yell ed.

“She doesn’t have to show up, then. Give her a call. If the line connects, I’ll co nsider it a win.” Tyler settled on a compromise.

“I..” Dylan’s expression froze. With his status, he couldn’t even interact with Sc

arlet, let alone have her personal contact information

“Dylan, stop holding back! Just give her a call. I’d like to see if Tyler would still

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dare stir up trouble,
Jacob said in discontent.

1/2

“That’s right, show him the power of Dragonmarsh’s Goddess of War!”

The Ha
rmons started
clamoring.

They knew asking her to appear would be difficult, but making a call
would be

easy. After all, Dylan was a high–
ranking commander. He would definitely be taken seriously.

“Fine! I’ll make the call!” Realizing that he couldn’t
avoid it, Dylan immediately took out his phone and started his act of
needing h
elp.

“Don’t try to tell me that Scarlet is too
busy and can’t answer your call,” Tyler interrupted him

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coldly.

Dylan turned red as he was caught off guard by his words. He was indeed about to make an excuse to deceive him. After being exposed, he stood there dumbfounded.

“What’s the matter? It’s not connecting?” Tyler grew impatient:

“The Goddess of War is extremely busy with work, so it’s expected for her to n

ot pick up. I’ll try again later,” Dylan bit the bullet.

“Stop acting! Get lost!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 568 -
Chapter 568

Tyler stomped on the ground heavily, causing a violent surge of energy to strik

e Dylan Dylan staggered backward from the impact, spitting out another mout

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hful of blood. “You” He gritted his teeth, not daring to utter another sound.
He
knew he had been completely defeated
“Tyler, you are too much!” Jacob erupted in fury at the sight of his son
injured
once again
“Cut the crap! Make a choice—
The carriage or the coffin?” With his hands behind his back, Tyler
gave off an imposing air.
“Tyler Grant! Do you think you can suppress the entire Harmon family
alone?
You’re absolutely
crazy!” Jacob retorted angrily.
“Who said I’m alone?” Tyler raised his hand and snapped his fingers.
“Come i
n.” On

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his orders, the sound of synchronized marching could be heard by the door. As

they approached, the noise grew louder. Even the liquids on the table rippled

slightly.

To everyone's astonishment, following the sound was a group of black-clad, masked, and fully armed guards striding in with confidence. The guards

were tall and muscular with sharp gazes and carried a strong presence.

They looked

like they had gone through numerous bloodshed, a

clear indication of them being seasoned fighters. Their presence subdued the

crowd, and the number of dark barrels especially left them feeling terrified.

"Huh?" The Harmons' expression shifted at the sight. Nobody expected Tyler to

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to deploy a group of armed guards as backup on the day to pick up his bride. It was a terrifying sight to behold! “Whoever is unhappy can step forward.” Tyler scanned his surroundings, looking at the crowd in arrogance and contempt. Anyone that met his gaze dropped their heads unwittingly. Who would dare step out when the armed guards have appeared? They would be seeking their own demise. Hector frowned slightly, upset. The thing he feared the most had happened at last. “This guy is truly outrageous!” Jacob and the rest of the Harmons gritted their teeth, but there was nothing they could do. Today seemed like the day the Harmons would face their greatest calamity.

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“Oh my God, that’s how General Lionheart is? He’s too much for deploying the armed guards for a small all disagreement.”

“Looking at the current situation, it seems like the Harmons are in for a rough time today.”

“Either submit or be suppressed. I wonder what the Harmons would choose.*

The guests whispered and discussed among themselves. They truly hadn’t anticipated a birthday celebration to turn into a forced marriage scene.

“Natasha Harmon, nobody can help you today. You are destined to be my man. Let’s go.” Tyler walked up, his gaze threatening. When he moved, the armed guards followed. His menacing demeanor made the Harmons turn

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pale as they trembled in fear.

Just when everyone thought Natasha would be taken by force, a tall figure blocked Tyler's path, standing right before him with

a cutting gaze.

"Have you asked me before taking her away?"

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 569 -

Chapter 569

"Have you asked me for permission before taking her away?" Dustin stood in f

ront of Tyler, blocking his path. He had a frosty expression as he stood

unyel

ding.

"Huh?" The guests were dumbfounded and in shock. They could not

believe s

omeone would dare to challenge Tyler This person must've had nerves of

ste

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el.

Zoey's eyes widened in surprise. "What's Dustin doing up front? Doesn't he value his life?" Even if they disregarded Tyler's background, the armed guards behind him were terrifying enough.

Zeke sneered. "Hmph, he must have a death wish to challenge General Lionheart!" Tyler commanded the armed guards with an air of dominance. With just a single command, he could have Dustin shot into oblivion.

"Fool! He thinks he can show off in front of Tyler just because he's friends with Patrick. What a joke."

Gordon looked like he was looking at a corpse. While Patrick held a high score.

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ocial standing, he had no official position. He was absolutely incomparable to

Tyler.

“This is spelling trouble.” Adrianna frowned slightly. Even though she admired

Dustin’s courage in standing up for the woman he loved, it was too dangerous

in this situation.

“You dare stop me?” With his hands still behind his back, Tyler sized him up. H

is chilling gaze fixed on him, like that of a predator locking onto his prey.

“Why not? Natasha has every right to refuse to marry you. I won’t allow you to

force her to marry you in public,” Dustin stated calmly.

“You won’t agree?” Tyler raised an eyebrow. “So what? Do you really think yo

u can stop me?”

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“You can try. But I strongly advise against it. Otherwise, I’ll beat the shit out of

you,” Dustin spat,
word for word.

“What?” The guests erupted in an uproar at his words.

“Damn! Is this kid insane? He’s incredibly daring.”

“He’s too brave for his own good!”

“He’s openly challenging General Lionheart! He must have a death wish.”

The guests broke out into a discussion, with Dustin appearing like an idiot to t

hem. Even the Harmons were pressured into silence at Tyler’s appearance.
W

here did this insignificant kid get the courage to act so boldly in front of
such a

n influential figure?

“Hmph! What an idiot!” Dylan sneered. He wasn’t a match for Tyler, let
alone t

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hat loser Dustin

“He has commendable courage. Sadly, he won’t be living for long.” Kate rejoic

ed in his misfortune. She had always disliked Dustin, especially considering h

er brother’s death had something to do with him. That was why she desperatel

y wished for a tragedy to befall him.

“Hector, you didn’t plan this, did you? What can an insignificant brat like him a

ccomplish?” Trent was frustrated. Dustin was only making things worse by ch

allenging Tyler.

Hector’s brows were locked in a frown as he

remained silent. The time was not right, and he had to keep waiting.

1/2

Chapter 569

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Natasha, on the other hand, sat beside him in worry, at a loss for words. In the face of his boastful statement, Tyler let out a chuckle. “Do you know what you just said?”

“No matter what I said, I’ve given you a warning. So stop whatever you’re planning. Don’t make me hit you.” Dustin’s expression was unwavering.

“You’ve got balls.” Tyler nodded.

“I admire your bravery. Sadly, you’re not qualified to play the hero in front of me. I’ll give you three seconds. Get lost! Or die!”

The armed guards behind him raised their guns at his words, rows of gun barrels aimed directly at every part of Dustin. They would immediately shoot their target into oblivion upon their general’s orders.

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“Hold it!”

“Stop right there!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 570 -
Chapter 570

Seeing that Tyler was serious, Natasha and Patrick stood up and stopped him.

“Tyler, speak and behave as you wish, but he is my friend. You better not act r

ecklessly.” Patrick stepped forward and stood shoulder to shoulder with Dustin, clearly taking his side. His actions shocked many. It final

ly dawned on them why Dustin acted without restraint—he had someone backing him.

“Patrick, no

one can stop me from killing my target, not even you.” Tyler’s expression rem

ained cold, not showing any sign of yielding. A rich playboy

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was nothing in his eyes.

“There’s no reason to go that far. You should forgive sometimes.” Patrick frowned slightly.

Tyler spat out, “Get lost. My bullets don’t discriminate.”

“You-

” Patrick’s expression darkened. Even though they were both sons of affluent families, he could never compare to Tyler in terms of status and authority. If Tyler decided to use force, he would be powerless to stop him.

“Mr. Grant, why are you so angry? Can’t things be discussed nicely at a table?”

” At that moment, a middle-aged man dressed in luxurious clothing walked in with his head held high. “Hey, isn’t that Roderick, Big Bucks Brooks? I can’t believe he’s here.”

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The crowd gasped silently in shock. As the person who controlled the economy in Millsburg, Roderick was undoubtedly the wealthiest man there! His words carried immense weight in the business world, and he commanded deep respect from everyone.

As he walked in, he naturally took a spot beside Dustin, clearly expressing his stance.

“What? Are you going against me too?” Tyler gave him the side eye. Roderick responded calmly, “I wouldn’t dare. I simply hope Mr. Grant could mitigate the circumstances.”

“And if I don’t?”

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“I may need to reconsider my annual donation of one billion for your military spending.” Roderick flashed a smile.

“Ha! A lowly businessman is threatening me? Beat it, or I’ll kill you too!” Tyler’s face grew cold. He was getting impatient. What was going on today? Why were all these mediocre people bravely acting up against him?

“I wouldn’t expect anything less from General Lionheart. You sure are mighty!”

Suddenly, a commanding voice was heard by the door.

Everyone turned their attention toward the sound and saw a middle-aged man in an army uniform adorned with stars, indicating his high rank. He strode confidently with a group of armed guards following behind him.

“The hell? That’s Sir Moran! What brings such an influential figure here?”

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The crowd buzzed with excitement at his appearance, curious and astonished expressions filling their faces.

Chapter 570

Sir Moran was a lieutenant general. He controlled nearly half of the army in the Southern Province. In terms of official rank, he stood half a notch higher than Tyler, who was only a major general. He sat at the top of the Southern Province! The unexpected presence of a high-ranking official left everyone wondering, as it was a rare sight to witness him g racing any event. “Keith Moran?” Tyler frowned slightly, seemingly surprised. He didn’t expect th

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e Harmons to have the influence
to bring forth Southern Province's regional deputy chief.
"He's finally here!" Hector couldn't conceal his joy as the tension in his
forehead
and gradually eased. Hector had bided his time in silence, waiting for the
opportu
une moment. He had reached out to Keith a few days
ago, uncertain if he would stand up for the Harmons. Seeing him arrive,
Hector
was relieved. With Keith Moran as the regional deputy chief in
attendance, T
aylor wouldn't be able to act as he pleased.
This was Hector's trump card!

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 571 -

Chapter 5/1

Chapter 571

“Hahaha! Sir Moran is here! The Harmons are saved!”

“With Sir Moran present, I doubt Tyler would continue his reckless behavior!”

Keith’s appearance uplifted the Harmons’ spirits, and they felt inexplicably hap

py, finally feeling at ease after

their previous feelings of repression. So what if Tyler was General Lionheart?

He was only a major general. Sir Moran, as a lieutenant general and the one

who controlled

the army, held greater authority than Tyler. Even a talented genius like Tyler h

ad to show deference in the presence of Sir Moran.

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Trent flashed a wide smile. “Hector, I can’t believe you actually got Sir Moran to come. That’s amazing!”

“Trent, you got it all wrong. Sir Moran’s appearance should have something to do with my son’s identity,” Jacob said proudly.

Kate chimed in, “That makes sense. Dylan is a part of the Dark Panther Cavalry and is backed by the Goddess of War. With such a bright future, Sir Moran must have recognized his talent.”

Trent chuckled with realization. “Oh, that’s right... Dylan is our true talented genius.”

Considering the Harmons’ standing, it wasn’t easy to have Keith confront Tyler. However, things were different if they factored in

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Scarlet, the Goddess of War's connection.

“Ha! Let's see if Tyler will continue to act as he pleases!” Dylan revealed in the

praises, accepting the credit without hesitation. Hector didn't correct them either. As long as they could resolve the situation, it didn't matter who in

vited Keith.

“I believe this is just a birthday celebration. Why have you brought so many gu

ards, General Lionheart?” Keith's tone was frosty as he questioned Tyler, walk

ing up

to him slowly. The guards from both sides faced off against each other, creatin

g a tense atmosphere.

“Sir Moran, this matter has nothing to do with you. I hope you won't interfere,”

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Tyler was indifferent. Despite Keith's higher rank, he remained fearless. "Millsburg falls under my jurisdiction. Its safety is my responsibility. If you stir u

p trouble here, it's only natural for me to step in," Keith declared with conviction.

n.

"You're just a local general while I was bestowed my title by the royal family. D

o you have authority over me?" Tyler retorted coldly.

"It doesn't matter who commits the crime. As long as they do so, I will not stand idly by!" Keith confidently confronted him.

"Ha! I'm afraid the number of people you brought with you is not

enough to stop my army," Tyler said, maintaining his advantage.

said, maintaining his advantage.

"If Sir Mason's forces are insufficient, what if I join in?" At that moment, they h

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heard an elderly yet commanding voice. It wasn't loud, yet it reverberated through the entire place.

Following the voice, an elderly man with a white beard and matching eyebrow

strolled in leisurely. He exuded a strong presence and had a piercing gaze,

evoking an overwhelming air with his every move. Though unintentional, it was

intimidating. As he walked through the doors, a

Chapter 571

palpable weight seemed to descend upon the crowd, like rocks pressing down

on their chests. It was hard to even breathe.

"T—that... Isn't that Sir Paul Hill?"

"Oh my God! It really is him! What's he doing here?"

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Everyone present erupted in a frenzy at his appearance. He was the patriarch of the Hill family, a highly skilled grandmaster, and a master of Balerno martial arts. He commanded immense respect and admiration in the marital world. In the entire seven provinces in Balerno, 100 thousand martial artists followed his command. He was a true leader, revered by countless followers.

“What’s going on? Sir Hill is actually here?” The Harmon family members looked at each other in genuine surprise. Paul was a reserved man with an air of mystery

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surrounding him. He rarely made appearances for anyone, and their families weren't acquainted. Why would a martial arts master like him step up

for the Harmon family?

"Hector, did you invite Sir Hill?" Trent was dumbfounded.

Hector shook his head. "No."

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 572 -

Chapter 572

"Who could it be then?" The Harmons were shocked once again. Who had the

power to bring forth

Sir Hill?

Hector shook his head again. Paul's appearance was indeed unexpected.

"Tyler Grant, do you think I can't stop your army?" Paul stood unwavering like

a tall mountain, his presence overwhelming. Even the guards behind Tyler be

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gan trembling as they held their guns. Not everyone could handle the imposing presence of a grandmaster.

“Hmm?” At that moment, Tyler, who had been indifferent the whole time, finally furrowed his brow.

Of course, Paul could stop his army. A martial artist at the level of a grandmas-

ter had transcended the limits of human capabilities. He had the power to single-handedly take on tens of thousands of men. Tyler’s army was naturally not

enough to stop him. The important thing was that Paul not only had exceptional

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skills, but he also had an extremely high standing in the martial world. A hundred thousand martial artists in Balerno would never dare to defy any of his orders.

“Sir Hill, this is my personal grievance with the Harmons. I hope you will stay out of it.” Tyler remained unyielding.

“I love meddling in people’s affairs and will help out if I witness injustice. And since I’ve come across one today, naturally, I won’t sit idly by,” Paul responded calmly. Tyler narrowed his eyes. “Is it worth becoming an enemy of the Grants for the Harmons?” Both families were part of the Tremendous Three, and each family

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had their own strengths. While they weren't afraid of the other, Tyler was unwilling to sour their relationship with the Hills.

"I owe a favor, and I must repay it today. The grievances between your families can be dealt with next time. For now, you will not stir up trouble," Paul warned him.

"And if I refuse to back down?" Tyler countered. He had gone this far, and it would be like a slap to his face if he backed down so easily now.

"You refuse to back down? Then let's see if your army can withstand my power." As Paul spoke, he forcefully stomped on the ground. The impact caused a resounding explosion, leaving a crater in its wake, and the entire banquet hall shook violently.

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At the same time, a violent surge of energy rushed toward Tyler's armed guards like an avalanche. The black-clad, armed guards staggered backward like they were struck by lightning. Their faces turned pale and they broke out in cold sweat. They couldn't even hold their guns steady. The crowd was left utterly speechless at the terrifying sight. That was a grandmaster's ability! With just one foot, he nearly defeated a hundred armed guards. Tyler's brow furrowed. He didn't expect Paul to truly strike. Wasn't the crazy old man afraid of instigating a war between the two families? "Hahaha... Sir Hill is truly domineering. No wonder he's a martial arts master!" "With the support of both Sir Moran and Sir Hill, I doubt Tyler would act recklessly!"

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“If you think about it, only those two could hold Tyler back.”

1/2

Chapt

Pauls’s single stomp increased the Harmons‘ confidence. It didn’t matter if he

was Tyler Grant,

General Lionheart, or the great legend. He was no longer a threat to the Harm

ons.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 573 -

Chapter 573

“Are you going to back down or not?” Paul stood proudly and imposingly.

“Tyler, that’s enough.” Keith stepped forward as well, standing next to Paul. H

e alone might not be able to hold Tyler back, but with Paul’s power in the marti

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al world, it should be enough to make Tyler wary. He believed that Tyler would

be smart enough to back down.

“Looks like Tyler is about to be forced to submit.”

“Who can stand against two highly influential figures when they come together

?”

“I didn’t know the Harmons held such influence. They were actually able to for

ce Tyler into a

tough spot.”

Taking in the sight of both parties at the height of their confrontation, the crowd

couldn’t help but murmur among themselves. Tyler was an undeniably outstanding

individual with a formidable background. No one dared to confront him,

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even when he publicly stirred up trouble at the Harmons' birthday celebration.

However, no matter how excellent or talented he was, he still had to show def

erence in the face of both Keith's and Paul's superiority.

"Seems like both of you have made up your minds to go against me.

However

, I'm afraid it won't be that easy to make me back down." Tyler's

expression gr

adually grew colder. To be able to climb up

to where he was now, he naturally had his connections.

"Wise individuals know how to adapt to their circumstances. Going against the

tide is not a wise

move," Keith commented casually.

"So we're resorting to displays of power now, huh? Fine, I'm curious to see wh

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o holds the highest authority here,” Tyler said, taking out his phone and sending a message. After a moment, the sound of orderly marching outside could be heard outside the door. The sound grew louder as they approached nearer. The resonating sound struck fear in people’s hearts. Following the noise, the Harmon family’s butler rushed in, shouting anxiously, “Mr. Harmon, things are looking bad! An army is forcing their way in.” “An army?” Hector frowned. “Whose army is it?” A clear voice resounded, “That would be me!” A burly, middle-aged man in a general’s uniform strode in confidently. Keith’s expression shifted slightly at the sight of the man. Even Paul, who stood beside him, was surprised. “It can’t be. Even Regional Chief Roger Leinonen is here?”

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“This situation has gone out of hand! It really is Sir Leinonen!”

“Oh my goodness, what’s going on today? This is such an epic clash!”

Roger Leinonen was the regional chief of one of the provinces. As a second-

ranked military official, he sat in the highest position in local law enforcement.

Except for the viceroy who controlled the entire military and government, no one

else could compare to him in the whole of Southern Province. He held true

power. Even Keith had to show him deference. After

all, one was the regional chief, while the other was the regional deputy chief. The

word “deputy” made all the difference in terms of power and influence.

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“This is spelling trouble. I can’t believe Tyler was able to invite Sir Leinonen.”

“What now? All our previous plans have gone to waste with his arrival!” The Harmons were shocked and broke out in cold sweat upon Roger’s arrival.

Each and every one of them looked anxious. Tyler alone was already a formidable opponent. With Sir Leinonen backing him, they were unstoppable. Trouble was brewing for the Harmons.

“Sir Moran, General Lionheart is the pillar of our nation. Are you really going to confront him today?” Roger targeted Keith upon his arrival, his sharp tone establishting his authority.

Keith frowned without uttering a word. He never got along with Roger. Unfortu

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nately, Roger held a higher position than he did.

“Sir Paul, you are highly respected, and I admire you greatly. I hope you will le

t this matter go on my behalf.” Roger turned his attention to Paul, appearing p

olite. After all, he didn’t wish to sever ties with a martial arts master unless abs

olutely necessary.

Paul narrowed his eyes. “Sir Leinonen, are you here to back Tyler?”

“I’m good friends with General Lionheart. Naturally, I’m going to offer him

my full support,” Roger responded bluntly.

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Paul responded calmly, “It’s two against two. We’re not exactly at a disadvant

age.”

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“Sir Paul, I’m afraid it’s two against one. You should ask Sir Moran if he’s still willing to open this can of worms,” Roger spoke profoundly.

“Hmm?” Paul turned to Keith and realized he seemed upset. It appeared like he had decided to back out with his silence. Keith was able to go up against Tyler alone, but with Roger backing him, it was a different story. After all, he wasn’t too acquainted with the Harmons. There was no need to jeopardize his career over this.

The Harmons feel dejected by Keith’s silence. Once he backed out, it would be hard for the Harmons to escape the situation unscathed.

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“Mr. Harmon, I was indeed taken by surprise by your planning. Sadly, it isn’t enough. So, what is your decision?” Tyler looked up slightly, his gaze directed at Hector.

With Roger’s army, Paul alone wouldn’t be able to save the Harmons. Hector frowned, his expression solemn. Was he to give in to the Grants? As the situation grew increasingly dire, Trent stood up to mediate.

“General Li onheart, we can discuss this. There’s no need to escalate things this far.” The Harmons had used up their trump cards. They could only give in if they didn’t wish to receive their wrath.

“Of course, but I have a condition,” Tyler said calmly. Trent responded, “What condition?”

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“I want this brat’s life!” Tyler exclaimed unexpectedly, pointing a finger at Dustin.

A plebeian who dared challenge the authority of the Grants should pay a price. He was going to set an example today.

Trent froze, shifting his gaze toward Hector, who was beside him. Hector was

silent. No one knew what he was thinking.

“Tyler Grant! Don’t go too far!” Natasha finally reached her breaking point.

“You should take responsibility for your actions. You were the ones who made

the decision,” Tyler said indifferently.

“You-” Natasha’s expression grew increasingly cold.

“Seems like this Dustin guy is done for.” Zoey, who was among the crowd, sighed.

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Zeke sneered. “Hmph! This is the consequence for daring to challenge General Lionheart.”

“If you think about it, he brought this upon himself.” Gordon was silently happy about it.

“Tyler Grant, I’m afraid you’re still not worthy of taking my life.” Dustin remained calm.

“What? Do you think anyone else can save you today?” Tyler uttered coldly.

As soon as he spoke, a guard rushed in anxiously. He reported, “Sir Leinonen, there’s trouble! A group of guards have barged in!”

“Don’t you see that I am here with General Lionheart? Why are you so panicked?” Roger’s

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Chapter 574

expression hardened. “Even if the emperor himself were here, it wouldn’t change a thing, let alone a small group of guards! Drive them out!”

The guard’s expression turned grave. “W—

we can’t. They are the viceroy’s personal guards.”

“So what if they are the viceroy’s personal guards? I—

” Roger was halfway through his tirade when he froze. His words were

stuck in his throat.

The viceroy and his personal guards? It couldn’t be... The viceroy was here?

Before Roger could fully comprehend the situation, he saw someone walk through the door. It was a well-dressed, middle-aged man. The man had a handsome face and a dignified posture. Even when he

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n he was calm, he carried an air of authority, and every move of his was imposing.

“Lord... Lord Xenos?” Roger’s expression turned for the worst immediately at the sight of the man.

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Chapter 575

“Lord Xenos! It’s Lord Xenos!”

“Damn, even Lord Xenos has shown up! The world is turning upside down!”

“Who was able to bring forth Lord Xenos?”

The crowd broke out into a frenzy at the sight of the distinguished man.

Lord X

enos was no ordinary man; he was the viceroy! The influential figure who held

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control over the entire military and government of Southern province! He was an official of the first rank and a true authority figure! A single action of his could shake up Millsburg in its entirety. Sir Leinonen and General Lionheart were mere shadows compared to him.

“Why is Lord Xenos here? Did Tyler invite him?”

“It’s over. It’s all over... There’s no one to save us now!”

“He’s the most powerful official in all of Southern province. Who else can compare to him?”

The Harmons were shaken, their faces filled with fear and despair. Given their status, it was evident that they weren’t the ones to invite the viceroy. So there was only one possibility—he was on Tyler’s side.

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At that moment, not only were the Harmons shaken, but Tyler was also surprised and puzzled. He wasn't exactly acquainted with the viceroy. "It's him?" When Dustin saw him arrive, he finally revealed a flicker of emotion. It wasn't the person's title that stirred him, but it was because he recognized him. It was none other than Ruby's father—George Xenos. When he first met him at the hospital a few days ago, he wasn't aware of his identity. He didn't expect him to be the viceroy who controlled the entire Southern province.

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“Oh, Lord Xenos, what brings you here?” After a momentary daze, Roger approached and greeted

him with a smile. Lord Xenos was, after all, his direct superior.

“Roger, I heard you were planning to drive away my men. Is that true?”

George asked nonchalantly.

“It’s a misunderstanding ... It’s all just a misunderstanding!” Roger smiled

apologetically. “I would

welcome them with open arms. I would never dare to drive them away.”

“Is that so?” George surveyed his surroundings. “Then why have you

brought

so many of your men

here?”

“Uh...” Roger froze, unsure of how to respond. He couldn’t possibly

admit that

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he was helping the

Grants tyrannize the Harmons, could he?

Tyler intervened, “Lord Xenos, what brings you to this place?”

“What, do I need to report my movements to you?” George countered.

Tyler lowered his head slightly. “Not at all. I’m just curious, that’s all.”

“I heard Mr. Hector is celebrating his birthday today. I’m here to wish him a ha

ppy birthday.” George’s voice was loud and clear.

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Chapter 575

“Wish him a happy birthday?” All eyes turned to Hector at George’s words. Th

e Harmons were acquainted with Lord Xenos?

Trent’s voice began to quiver as he asked, “H–

Hector, did you really invite Lord Xenos?”

“I...” Hector found himself at a loss for words. If he had indeed invited Lord Xe

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nos, he wouldn't have feared the Grants. However, Lord Xenos seemed unmistakably on their side from his statement. Hector couldn't figure out who could possibly have the influence to bring forth Lord Xenos' presence. "Roger, you must be here to send your wishes too, I reckon?" George suddenly asked. "Huh?" Roger was momentarily stunned before nodding. "Yes, that's right... I'm here to send my wishes!" He wouldn't dare continue acting rashly with Lord Xenos backing the Harmons. He could only use the pretext to act as if nothing

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had happened.

“How about you?” George turned his attention to Tyler, his tone slightly imposi

ng.

“I’m here to send my wishes and pick up my bride,” Tyler answered bluntly.

“Pick up your bride? Who is she?”

Tyler answered, “Mr. Hector’s daughter and I have long been engaged.

Today

is the day of our marriage according to the marriage contract.”

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Chapter 576

“Oh? Is that so?” George glanced at Hector.

Hector spoke truthfully, “They were indeed engaged in the past. But there wer

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some problems recently that warranted further discussion regarding the engagement.”

“Problems should be solved round the table. Why be so hostile?” George expressed his dissatisfaction.

“I’m open to discussion, but the Harmons are not respecting me,” Tyler responded.

“Marriage should be based on mutual consent. It’s criminal behavior for you to force my hand in marriage by publicly deploying your army!” Natasha suddenly cried out.

“She’s right,” George agreed. “A marriage should be between two willing parties. If one party is unwilling, you shouldn’t force it.”

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Tyler frowned slightly at his words. It appeared as if George was adamant about

standing with the

Harmons.

“Lord Xenos, what did the Harmons promise you? I’m willing to pay tenfold,” Tyler

unexpectedly said to George.

“How dare you!” George’s expression darkened, and he bellowed, “Tyler Grant

! Is this how you see the viceroy? A corrupt official?”

“No, no. Not at all... Tyler misspoke. Please forgive him!” Roger attempted to

defuse the situation immediately.

“You are too young to know how the world works and are too impulsive and a

aggressive. Take

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your men with you, and get out of here!” George bellowed. He had thought of saving Tyler the embarrassment but didn’t expect him to not know his place.

“Tyler, let it go. We can talk about matters at a later time.” Roger gave Tyler a meaningful look. Both of them were nothing in front of the viceroy. Tyler might be talented with a bright future ahead, but he wasn’t strong enough to challenge George at this time.

Tyler narrowed his eyes. “Lord Xenos, are you really going to support the Harmons?”

“That’s right! I’m definitely supporting them! If anyone has a problem with it, feel free to talk to me.” George’s tone was domineering.

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The Harmons were ecstatic upon hearing his declaration, while Tyler's expression turned unusually resentful. He couldn't understand the reason George would publicly challenge the Grants in favor of the Harmons. Even though he was upset, he could only give in for now. George was a first-ranked official and controlled the army, Tyler couldn't afford to offend him. However, he was confident he would overshadow George in under five years.

"Lord Xenos, since you have a higher rank, I'll concede for now. However, the world is a small place, and things don't always go as you want. We'll meet again!" With a scoff, Tyler strutted out of the place with his entourage. He promised

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d there would come a day when he would crush George beneath his feet.

“Lord Xenos, the younger generation can be impulsive at times. I hope you wo

n’t take it to heart. I

1/2

Chapter Sire

shall take my leave as well.” With a nod of acknowledgment, Roger followed T

Tyler out the door. He had to admit they hit a brick wall today.

“Lord Xenos is amazing. He was able to drive Tyler away with just a few word

s.”

“Of course! He’s the viceroy entrusted with a region. It’s not merely an empty t

itle.”

“I envy the Harmons. They actually have Lord Xenos backing them.”

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The discussion among the guests grew increasingly heated with Tyler's departure. Nobody expected a mere birthday celebration to bring forth that many influential figures. The contest between the two families was akin to an epic clash.

"Lord Xenos, Sir Paul, Sir Moran, thank you for your help. We will forever be grateful." Hector walked up to them and shook their hands. Without their appearance, disaster would've befallen the Harmons.

George smiled. "You're welcome, Mr. Harmon. The main reason I came was to return a favor." As he spoke, he stole a glance at Dustin.

"Return a favor?" Hector was puzzled, Lord Xenos was not only an extremely i

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nfluent figure, but he also held the highest authority and answered to no one.

Who could Lord Xenos owe a favor to among the Harmonys?

Paul chuckled as he stroked his beard. "What a coincidence; I'm also here to r

eturn a favor, just like you, Lord Xenos."

"Huh?" Hector widened his eyes, growing even more confused. One was the v

iceroy, while the other was a renowned martial arts master. Who exactly could

have both influential figures owe

them a favor at the same time?

"Congratulations, Mr. Harmon. With such an outstanding son-in-law, the Harmonys are destined for a prosperous future." George gave him a

m

eaningful smile.

"Son-in-

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law?" It didn't make sense to Hector. Both of his daughters were not yet married, so which son-in-law did he mean?

Hector was hit by a sudden realization. Could it be Dustin?

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Chapter 577

Hector was astonished at the thought. He turned his head and looked toward

Dustin, finding him calm and collected. It appeared as if he were an outsider in

the situation. However, that was exactly what made him indiscernible.

Upon deep reflection, Hector realized that the Harmons' situation had taken a

turn for the better when Dustin started challenging Tyler. Was this young man

in front of him really the person who turned

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the tide? It would be frightening if that were the case!

“Mr. Hector, I’m needed elsewhere, so I’ll be taking my leave first.”

George left

after saying his goodbyes. He didn’t expose Dustin’s identity as he was worried about making things complicated for him. Some things were better left

unto

ld.

“Guess there’s no more fighting. I’ll be leaving too.” Paul gave Dustin a knowing

look before

leaving with his head held high.

“Mr. Hector, see you next time.” Sir Moran shook his hand and left as well.

As the influential figures departed, the ballroom livened up even more.

Not onl

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y did the guests discuss among themselves, but even the Harmons were making their own speculations.

“Dad, I can’t believe you’re influential enough to be able to invite Sir Paul and Lord Xenos over. You’re amazing!” Natasha walked up with a huge smile on her face.

With two influential figures backing them, she was sure Tyler wouldn’t dare force her hand in marriage any longer. She considered herself to have broken free from him.

“Hector, it seems you have more tricks hidden up your sleeves. I’m impressed!” Trent and a few of his people went up to Hector as well. Each of them looked

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d proud, their faces brimming with excitement. With Lord Xenos and Sir Paul backing them, the Harmons would be unstoppable.

“Trent, it wasn’t me. I don’t have that kind of influence.” Hector remained modest and shook his head.

“Then who could it be if it wasn’t you?” Trent was puzzled and confused. “I’m wondering the same thing...” Hector rubbed his chin and glanced at Dustin once again. He asked meaningfully, “Dustin, do you know who could have invited them?”

Before Dustin could respond, a clear and loud voice interjected, “Uncle Hector, there’s no need to speculate any longer, as that would be me!” The

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crowd turned their heads in the direction of the voice and saw Dylan walking over proudly.

“Dylan, are you acquainted with Lord Xenos and Sir Paul?” Trent was pleasantly surprised.

“Although I don’t know them personally, they appeared because of me.” Dylan was confident.

“Oh? Why do you say so?” Trent was taken aback.

“I’m associated with the Dark Panther Cavalry, and I have the backing of the Goddess of War. It’s likely that they recognized my potential and talent and decided to help out.” Dylan’s head was held high.

“That’s right! Dylan is the Scarlet Warrior’s trusted aide. It’s natural for Lord Xe

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nos to take a liking
to him,” Kate chimed in.

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Chapter 572

“So that’s why... No wonder Lord Xenos was that enthusiastic.”

“Dylan truly is exceptional to have gained
the favor of the two influential figures.”

“Dylan, I didn’t know you had such powerful connections. You’re
amazing!”

At that moment, the crowd showered him with praises, hailing him as their
sav
ior.

Jacob laughed heartily and was filled
with pride. “My son is so talented!” He was clued in
on Sir Moran’s appearance. However, he didn’t expect his son to be so
skilled
that he would garner Lord

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Xenos and Sir Paul's attention.

"I think there's more to this. Dylan's status is not enough to impress the vicero

y," Natasha said after thoughtful consideration. She noticed George never eve

n glanced at Dylan throughout the entire ordeal.

"Hmph! You're just jealous!"

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Chapter 578

Chapter 578

Kate snorted. "You sure are jealous of Dylan, even when you are talentless. H

ow petty is that? If you are unhappy about Dylan, tell me, who else is better th

an him?"

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Kate's remark caught Natasha off guard. Dylan was indeed the best among
ot

her family members in their generation because of his government ranks.

“What's the matter? Cat got your tongue? Is it that hard to admit that

Dylan's b

etter than you?”

Kate sneered at her.

“Natasha, you dodged a bullet today, all thanks to me! You'd better show
som

e gratitude,” Dylan chimed in, much to Natasha's dismay. He and Kate

seeme

d to be working together to bring her

down.

“All thanks to you? How?” Dustin

did not like it when they laughed at Natasha. “Lord Xenos is a viceroy, and

yo

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u're just a colonel. You're nowhere near his level, so why did you think he showed up for you?"

"Are you claiming that he showed up for you?" Dylan scoffed.

"You guessed right. He came here because of me." Dustin nodded, much to everyone's surprise.

But the surprise soon turned into dismissive laughter.

"Hahaha! Have you lost your mind? Why would you even say that?"

"Dustin Rhys, who do you think you are? What do you have to invite the viceroy?"

"Hmph! You seemed to have forgotten your place after tasting a little bit of power!"

The members of the Harmon family looked at him disdainfully as though he was

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as a complete fool. How dare a country doctor and a kept man make such an

outrageous claim?

“Dustin, do you really know Lord Xenos?” Natasha was quite dumbstruck.

“I saved Mrs. Xenos’ life a few days ago. He owed me a favor,” he confessed.

“He owed you a favor? Hah! You really flatter yourself! With Lord Xenos’ rank, he can call on any reputable doctor he wants from the military. W

hy does he need the help of a country doctor who’s more form than substance

?” Dylan sneered at Dustin.

“Exactly! Dustin, you’re too presumptuous. The audacity to name-drop Lord Xenos so casually! You have no shame at all!” Kate smirked.

“Believe it or not, that’s the truth.” Dustin dropped another bombshell, “I cured

Mrs. Xenos’ illness

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and saved Sir Paul from death!”

Upon hearing this statement, the people around him burst into even louder
lau

ghter, staring at

Dustin as if he were a complete clown.

“Are you seriously telling me that Sir Paul came here because of you?”

Dylan

snickered.

“Absolutely.” Dustin nodded matter-of-factly.

Dylan threw his head back as he laughed. “Oh, Dustin, I never thought you
co

uld be so thick-skinned! That was eye-opening!”

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Chapter 578

“Natasha, I never thought you’d fall for an incompetent man who bluffs,”

Kate

made a cynical jab, jumping on the opportunity to insult her cousin.

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“That was embarrassing! I felt second-hand embarrassment just watching!” Zoey shook her head from the crowd.

Zeke, with a derisive look on his face, added, “To be honest, I kind of admire his ability to lie with a straight face.”

Gordon snickered. “Well, a thick-skinned man is practically invincible.” No one believed that a loser like Dustin, who had neither authority nor influence, was somehow acquainted with a big shot like Paul Hill.

“What’s so funny?” Dustin asked nonchalantly.

“What’s not funny about the entire thing? Sir Paul is a legendary figure in the martial arts field and a grandmaster. It’s rather ridiculous to boast about saving his life, don’t you think?”

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Without a word, Dustin slammed an ornate silver badge onto the table. Engraved on it was the Hill family's last name—a Consultant Badge! When the crowd took a good look at the badge, they collectively gasped as their smiles froze. "I thought you guys love to laugh at others. Why aren't you laughing now?"

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 579 - Chapter 579

"I thought you guys love to laugh at others. Why aren't you laughing now?" After Dustin displayed his Consultant Badge, he openly confronted those who had looked down upon him. Dylan, Kate, and Natasha's friends gaped at the sight of the silver Consultant

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Badge on the table. They were smiling no more. After all, a Consultant Badge from the Hill family was a rare treasure coveted by many. With that badge in hand, one would have the backing of the Hill family, which also came with the perks of accessing and utilizing the family resources. It was not an understatement to describe the badge as priceless! However, it raised another question—how did the badge end up in Dustin’s possession? Was he telling the truth when he said that he had saved Sir Paul’s life? At the thought, everyone looked at Dustin differently.

“That’s impossible! Why would you have the Consultant

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Badge from the Hill family?” Kate was still reeling from the shock, even though

she was rather doubtful.

“I explained it clearly to you earlier, and I don’t want to repeat myself,”

Dustin

brushed her off coldly. He wouldn’t have displayed the badge if Dylan and Kat

e hadn’t harrassed Natasha.

“Kate Harmon, what do you say? Is there anything wrong with my boyfriend n

ow?” Natasha couldn’t resist taking a jab at Kate after she regained her confid

ence. She finally had the chance to relieve her frustration from being ridiculed

and bullied just now.

“Hmph! Don’t get ahead of yourselves! The Consultant Badge means nothing!

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” Kate’s face

scrunched up into a scowl.

“Exactly!” Dylan chimed in, “How did you get your hands on the Consultant

Badge of the Hill family with your social standing? I bet the badge is a fake!”

“A fake?” Everyone exchanged cautious glances. It was public knowledge that

the badge represented the Hill family. Whoever faked it would be courting de

ath.

“Dylan, that’s ridiculous!” Natasha glared at him. “The Hill family crest is clearl

y engraved on the badge. Everyone sees it clearly. How can this be a fake?”

“Can’t you fake a family

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crest?” Dylan boastfully assumed, “It’s just a silver badge. I can get a duplicate with ten thousand dollars. What’s so special about it?”

“That’s a load of bull. No one would fake the Consultant Badge of the Hill family!” Natasha argued.

“Dustin Rhys was bold enough to face Tyler Grant. Faking a badge is a child’s play for him.” Dylan chuckled

“Nonsense! And what proof do you have?” Natasha roared at him.

“Do you want proof? Fine.” Dylan grinned and picked up the badge from the table. He gave it a squeeze with his hand, and the silver badge cracked as it contorted into the shape of a silver bar.

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Dustin frowned at Dylan's act, while Natasha yelled, aghast, "Hey, what are you doing?"

Ignoring the two, Dylan showed off the crushed silver badge. "Everyone knows

that the Hill family Consultant Badge is made of special bulletproof, waterproof

of, and fireproof materials. But look at this thing. It falls apart like jelly when you

squeeze it. How can this be authentic?"

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 580 -
Chapter 580

"That's right! The Hill family's Consultant Badge is as hard as steel. Only a counterfeit

would be that brittle! Kate supported Dylan's claim, and everyone else

nodded in realization.

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“So, it’s a fake after all. That gave me a good shock.”

“This guy knows no shame! I can’t believe he created a counterfeit badge just for show. He’s too much!”

“Hmph! It’s fortunate that Sir Dylan was smart enough to see through him. Otherwise, we’d all have been fooled!”

Most of the crowd started berating Dustin. They trusted a wealthy son more than a lowly commoner. It was ironic how a successful person could blabber nonsense, and it would be taken as the absolute truth. While that same person, before becoming successful, could tell the absolute truth, and his words would be treated as garbage.

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Dustin spoke to Dylan coldly, “Dylan Harmon, have you thought of the consequences of destroying the Consultant Badge and distorting the truth in public?”

“The consequences? Ha! You’re the one tricking people with counterfeit items. I’m just doing what is right,” Dylan countered righteously.

“That’s right! We’ve been kind enough to not hold you accountable. How dare you start a fuss with us?” Kate snorted.

“Hey, don’t push it, you two!” Natasha was getting angry. Naturally, she had complete trust in Dylan. That was why she was certain Dylan was distorting the truth earlier and slandering Dustin

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on purpose.

“Alright, that’s enough. We’re all family. It’s not a good look to be fighting here.” Trent intervened at the right time. It would be an embarrassment to the Harmons if their children broke out into a fight in front of their esteemed guests.

“I’m going to put this matter aside on behalf of my uncle, Dustin.” Dylan walked up to Dustin and passed him the ruined Consultant Badge. He mocked him, saying, “Here, take your fake badge back.”

“You know very well if it’s fake or not.” Dustin was indifferent. Dylan chuckled and whispered in his ear, “Does it even matter? My words carry weight here. It’s a fake if I say so. It doesn’t matter if

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you feel wronged, Fucking keep it in. The world revolves around power and position, brat. A loser like you will only be worthy of being trampled by me. Remember, you're just an ant. Act like one. There are people you can't afford to offend, so suck it up!" Near the end, Dylan gave up the pretense as his lips gradually widened into a winner's smile. "My, my ... You're not about to cry, are you? Please don't cry, or I'll be laughing my ass off." Dustin narrowed his eyes. "People like you truly deserve a beating." "What? Are you angry? Come on, I'm right here. Why don't you hit me? Do you dare?" Dylan said provokingly. "I'm just going to dirty my hands if I hit you. But not to worry. I'll make you pay,

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” Dustin said

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Chapter 580

nonchalantly.

“You’re going to make me pay? Oh, I’m looking forward to it. What are you pla

nnng on doing?” Dylan chuckled teasingly.

Instead of responding directly, Dustin patted Dylan’s shoulder. He said calmly,

“You’ll find out soon enough.”

Dylan sneered. “Alright! I’ll be waiting. I’m curious to see what tricks you have

up your sleeves.”

“Dylan, there’s no need to waste your breath on him. Let’s go back to our seats.” Kate glanced at Dustin, her expression full of disdain.

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“Kate, someone is threatening me. I’m so scared... Hahahaha!” Dylan first put on a terrified, shaking act before dissolving into a loud cackle. However, his laughter suddenly ceased, and he froze; his expression betrayed his pain. He crumpled to the floor, blood spurting out of his mouth, and his body convulsed as his eyes rolled back in his head

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 581 -

Chapter 581

“Dylan!” The sudden turn of events left everyone stunned. Nobody expected D

ylan to collapse and spurt blood when he was still laughing a second ago.

“Get him to the hospital, quickly!” Hector made a prompt decision and ordered

someone to carry

Dylan out

“Hey, brat! Did you do this?” Jacob was about to leave when he thought of so

omething and turned back, his expression menacing.

“What does it have to do with me? It’s his old injuries that resurfaced. If you’re

looking for someone to blame, you should blame Tyler since he attacked him

earlier.” Dustin shrugged.

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“You- Jacob was exasperated. However, he couldn’t start a scene without evidence.

“Jacob. You should go now. It’s more important to save Dylan,” Hector reminded him.

“Let’s go!” Jacob glared at Dustin and left angrily, not wanting to waste any more time.

Trent and Kate followed behind them. As the Harmons’ most talented

genius, Dylan’s safety would affect their future. He was already considered

equal in standing to Hector, the family patriarch.

“Dear, what did you do to him?” Natasha got closer to Dustin and asked in a low

voiced voice. Something unusual clearly occurred for Dylan to suddenly collapse.

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se and spurt blood.

“What could I do? It was mainly because of Tyler,” Dustin said seriously.

“Do you really expect me to believe that?” Natasha rolled her eyes.

“Nobody c

an hear us, so you’d

better tell me the truth.”

“Alright, I just aggravated his injuries and made it worse.” Dustin smiled.

Dylan

had sustained internal injuries from Tyler’s attack earlier. And when

Dustin

patted Dylan’s shoulder, he channeled another bout of violent true energy

into

his body. His unstable condition flared up

instantly.

“Will he die?” Natasha asked cautiously. Even though she didn’t get along

wit

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h Dylan, he was still her uncle's only son. As they were related by blood, she

didn't wish for him to lose his life.

"Don't worry. He won't die, but he'll be suffering for a while. Perhaps, he might

even have complications from it," Dustin said

meaningfully. In essence, Dylan would grow weak and constantly struggle with

h illnesses.

"As long as he doesn't die, it doesn't matter. Serves him right!" Natasha was i

ndignant. She was still upset about

the time he spiked the wine. Since he was terrorizing others again, naturally, h

e should be taught a lesson.

"What are you two

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whispering about?” Hector, who was standing not far away, suddenly interjected.

“Nothing.” Natasha grinned and changed the subject. “Dad, if it weren’t for Dustin, we would have been in big trouble!”

“Not bad. Seems like we’re indebted to you again.” Hector nodded, looking impressed. He believed Dustin despite the skepticism from others. And that was because of what George said before he left.

1/2

“Not at all, Mr. Harmon. I didn’t do much,” Dustin responded politely.

“Dad, are you not going to do anything as a show of appreciation?”

Natasha w

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as slightly upset.

“What do you suggest? How about I give him your hand in marriage?”

Hector j

oked.

“Huh?”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 582 -

Chapter 582

While Dustin froze, Natasha blushed. “This... this is too sudden. I’m not
prepa

red for it!” She followed that up by asking, “Have you chosen a date?

When ar

e we getting married?”

“Hey, you thought I was for real? You should be embarrassed!” Hector
glared

at her.

Natasha pouted. “You said it yourself. Why are you yelling at me instead?”

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“Alright, it’s time to get serious.” Hector’s smile gradually disappeared.

“Even t

hough we overcame the situation for now, this matter is far from over.

With Tyl

er’s personality, he will not take this sitting down.”

“Will Tyler still act recklessly with Lord Xenos and Sir Paul behind us?”

Natash

a raised an

eyebrow.

“Tyler might not confront us directly, but he will definitely act behind the scene

s.” Hector was solemn as he continued, “Lord Xenos and Sir Paul have also r

epaid their favor. They won’t help us a second time. We can only face him our

selves now.”

“Does that mean trouble will continue brewing

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for us?” Natasha looked pensive.

“There will be trouble, but the most important thing is Dustin’s safety.”

Hector t

urned his attention toward Dustin and warned him, “Tyler is an

unsympathetic

and prideful man. Whether it was your involvement in Jayla’s death or

your pu

blic confrontation with him, they were all unforgivable acts for him. You

will be

in danger going forward.”

“Thank you for the warning, Uncle

Hector. I will take note.” Dustin nodded. He knew Tyler would come after

him t

o get revenge. But as long as Natasha was safe, there was nothing he

feared.

“During this period, I’ll deploy team one of our shadow guards to protect

you.

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That should lessen some of your troubles.” Hector declared.
“Team one? They’re your personal bodyguards, aren’t they?” Natasha was ast
onished. The Harmons had
six shadow guard teams. Team one was the most skilled, with a
divine–level
martial artist leading them. They were considered the Harmon family’s
trump c
ard. However, since team one’s responsibility was specifically to oversee
the
patriarch’s safety, they weren’t deployed
easily.
Hector responded, “I don’t need them for now. Let them protect Dustin.”
“Uncle Harmon, actually, I don’t need protecting,” Dustin tried to decline.
“There are times when we slip up. With team one protecting you, they will
act

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as an extra precaution to ensure your safety. Consider this our sincere gift to you. Don't refuse it." Hector was serious.

Natasha nodded in agreement. "My dad is right. Your safety comes first." "Alright..." Since Hector had put

it that way, there was no reason for Dustin to refuse any longer.

Even though he

wasn't afraid of Tyler, it would affect him slightly if Tyler decided to assassinate

him. At least he could avoid unnecessary trouble with the shadow guards keeping watch on him.

1/2

Chapter 58

In the meantime, inside the Grant family mansion, Roger was seated on the sofa

the sofa

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ofa, appearing pensive. “Tyler, The Harmons have Lord Xenos backing them

now. It won’t be easy to target them.”

“Even though we can’t touch them publicly, no one said anything about acting

in the dark.” Tyler stood with his hands behind his back. His gaze was unusual

ly cold as he stared at a bird perched. on a tree outside the window.

? What

“Oh? What are your plans?” Roger was curious.

“I have a few friends in the martial arts world. I’m going to get them to act and

create chaos within the Harmon family!” Tyler spat out coldly.

“But, that’s Paul’s territory ... ” Roger was at a loss for words. Paul was highly influential as a martial arts master.

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“Hmph! He’s just an old man nearing death. While his words hold a certain weight, it won’t be enough to stop me!” Tyler had a look of arrogance. “It seems like you have everything arranged. Is there anything I can help you with?” Roger asked cautiously. “Just keep an eye on George’s movements for me. As long as he doesn’t enter the picture, I will play with the Harmons as I please!” Tyler clenched his fist. “No problem. Leave it to me,” Roger vouched as he patted his chest. He wasn’t brave enough to challenge Lord Xenos. However, it would be nothing if he just had to monitor his movements. After sending Roger off, Tyler suddenly turned around and faced a corner. “Th

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at Dustin brat irritated me today. I asked you to kill him the last time, but I changed my mind. I want him to go. through a living hell!”

“Right away!” A shadow disappeared from the corner.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 583 -

Chapter 583

The next morning, at Nicholson Corp. Dustin reported to work as usual.

As Ch

ief Security Officer, his work was relatively easy. He would punch in in the mor

ning and patrol the area with a few officers, and he would have free time after

that. He could do anything he wanted since no one was there to keep watch o

n him

Dustin had just sat down in his office when someone knocked on his door.

He

looked up and found that it was the Vice Chairman, Hank Hoffman.

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“Mr. Rhys, are you free? Can I have a word with you?” Hank walked in the door with a smile.

Remaining in his seat, Dustin greeted him. “Mr. Hoffman, how can I help you?”

”

“Mr. Rhys, I had my friend bring back this aged Narcissus Tea from Mount Wo

ui. I hope you like it.

Hank took out a delicate gift box and placed it on his table.

Dustin raised an eyebrow. “Aged Narcissus Tea? This must be pretty expensive.”

ve.”

“It’s nothing, just over a million dollars.” Hank smiled

Dustin declined his gift. “Mr. Hoffman, this is too valuable. I can’t afford to take

it, you should keep it for yourself.”

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“It’s okay if you don’t like to drink tea. I have another present prepared. Still smiling, he took out a check from his pocket and said, “Here are three million dollars. Consider it a kind gesture of mine. I hope you accept it.” “Mr. Hoffman, you’re giving me gifts and money. What exactly is the meaning of this?” Dustin questioned him straightforwardly. Hank chuckled. “I’d like to be friends with you, Mr. Rhys.” He flashed Dustin a meaningful smile. “I know you are close to Dahlia, but you won’t have a future if you continue working for her. She’s just a lady. She won’t be able to accomplish great things.” Dustin’s expression remained unchanged. “So?”

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“So, I hope you can help me out. I’ll treat you well. The gifts I’ve given you today are just the start of many. There’ll be more benefits for you going forward.” Hank started revealing his true intentions.

“Mr. Hoffman, I don’t think it’s appropriate for you to ask me to betray Ms. Nicholson,” Dustin responded calmly.

“Mr. Rhys, the world revolves around gains. Dahlia pays you only a measly salary. Why would you still be loyal to her?” Seeing his lack of reaction, Hank continued to persuade him. “As long as you agree to my terms, I’ll make sure you end up as Vice Chairman when I become

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e the Chairman!” The only reason Hank gave him such a lucrative offer was due to his identity as the Flame Dragon gang leader. He knew that with Dustin backing Dahlia, it would be difficult to remove her from her position. That was why he needed to get Dustin on his side to achieve his goals. “Mr. Hoffman, you sure have confidence in me. Sadly, I’m not interested in your terms.” Dustin gave him an ambiguous smile.

1/2

Chapter 586

“What are you interested in, then? I’ll try my best to fulfill it as long as it’s within my means.

Hank responded hastily.

“Nothing. I just want you to obediently stay as Vice Chairman and not push th

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e boundaries.” Dustin’s smile gradually disappeared.

“What?” Hank furrowed his brows. “What do you mean, Mr. Rhys?”

Dustin responded coldly, “You don’t get it? Let me make it clearer. Going forward,

Dahlia will always remain the Chairman of this company. Anyone who wishes

to dispose of her will answer to me, understood?”

Hank’s expression darkened. “Mr. Rhys, does that mean this is out of discussion?”

“I’m not interested in discussing anything with you. Now, get out. I’m going to take a nap.” Dustin waved his hand in annoyance.

“Fine, I hope you don’t come to regret it!” Hank let out an audible scoff and left the room after packing up. He could only seek other methods since he

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“Fine, I hope you don’t come to regret it!” Hank let out an audible scoff and left the room after packing up. He could only seek other methods since he

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was unsuccessful in bribing Dustin.

“He wants to bribe me with a few million dollars? Does he think I’m poor?” Dus

tin was annoyed. He was a billionaire. That small amount of money was insign

ificant to him.

Suddenly, Dustin’s phone rang.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 584 -

Chapter 584

Dustin answered the call and instantly heard Julie’s voice blaring through the

speakers, “Dustin, Dahlia got into a traffic accident! Come and help us out, quick!”

“An accident?” Startled, Dustin probed for more information. “What happened

? Is she hurt?”

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“It’s a long story. I’ll send you our location. Come here right now!” Julie urged.

“Okay!” Without wasting any time,, Dustin ended the call and rushed out the d

oor.

Over at Dahlia’s side, a Maserati and a Bentley had run into each other on the

streets. Both cars were heavily damaged, and there were shards of car glass scattered around the point of collision.

After the collision, several young men and women came out of the Bentley, an

d at the forefront of the group was a young lady with hair that was dyed a brig

ht red, and clad in luxurious branded goods from head to toe.

After she got out of her car, she immediately went up to Dahlia’s car and bega

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n banging on the window, yelling rudely, “Hey! Can’t you f*cking drive?

Get ou

t of the goddamn car right now!”

“Get out!”

“Yeah, get the hell out, woman!”

The rest of them, who were together with the red-haired lady, also began kicking and banging on Dahlia’s car threateningly.

“Stop it!” Julie opened the car door and got out, shouting at them, “Why are yo

u behaving like such hooligans? You were the ones who made an illegal U–

turn and broke the law! You are fully responsible for the accident!”

“Full responsibility, my ass!” The red-haired lady gave Julie a hard slap across the face. “Quit running your mouth here! You ran into my car, so pay up!”

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“Y—
you hit me? Have you any idea who I am?” Julie was shocked and enraged
as
she cupped her stinging cheek in her hand.
“Whoa! You’re trying to challenge me, aren’t you? Very well, tell me, who
are
you?” The red-haired lady sniggered.
“You’d be terrified!” Julie said haughtily, “She’s Dahlia Nicholson,
chairperson
of Nicholson Corp!
And I am her cousin-cum-secretary!”
“Nicholson Corp.?” The red-
haired lady made a face when she heard that. “What trash is that? I’ve
never even heard of it before!”
“That’s only because you’re ignorant! I’m warning you, if you do not wish
thing
s

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to blow out of hand, you better pay up and apologize or you'll be sorry!"

Julie t

hreatened her meanly.

"Fucking hell! How dare you threaten me, you b*tch?" With a nasty glare,

the r

ed—

haired lady struck Julie across the face once again. The resounding smack

se

nt Julie staggering backward and falling flat on the ground, breaking a

tooth in

the process.

1/2

Chapter 584

"Y—you—

you! How dare you strike me again? You're going to regret this!" Fuming,

Julie

scrambled up to her feet before launching herself at the red—

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haired lady, ready to get down and dirty.

“You insolent fool!” She smirked as she sent a punch straight to Julie’s guts.

With a horrifying shriek, Julie fell to her knees and everything she had left in her stomach came rushing out.

“Stop this!” Seeing that things were about to get ugly, Dahlia swiftly went forward to help Julie up before she turned around and shouted at the red-haired lady, “Who gave you the right to hit others?”

“I do as I please! What, are you not happy? Why don’t I give you a good beating too, huh?” She shot Dahlia a glare.

“You’re going too far!” Dahlia was infuriated. She didn’t expect these people to be so rude and aggressive. They were clearly the ones who were in the wrong.

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g, and yet they showed no remorse and even resorted to physically assaulting

others. They were way too arrogant!

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 585 -

Chapter 585

“Oh, I’m going too far now, am I? Well, so what if I am? What are you going to

do about it?” The red-haired lady stood with arms akimbo as she glared daggers

at Dahlia.

“I’ve called the cops! You better not act rashly!” Dahlia warned. She had Julie

make several calls. as soon as they had the accident.

“The cops?” The red-

haired girl laughed obnoxiously as her friends behind her watched on. unkindly

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y, obviously having no regard for the authorities. “Do you think that I’d be daunted by mere cops? I’ll have you know, I can kill you right this instant and chuck you into the ocean as fish food, and no one will be able to do anything about it!” She laughed nastily. “Surely you can’t be above the law!” Dahlia shook her head with a frown, her brows furrowed.

“The law? Haha! I am the f*cking law! Now, pay me ten million dollars, or I’ll show you what I’m capable of!” The red-haired lady threatened.

“Ten million dollars? That’s daylight robbery!” Julie was aggravated. Even if she had bought that car in cash, it’d only amount to slightly over two million at best, so if they were to pay for the repair cost, several hundred thousand

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ould be more than enough.

For her to demand ten million dollars as compensation was pure extortion, an

d most importantly, she was the one who was in the wrong, so why should the

y be the ones paying her?

“Cut the crap!” The red-

haired lady shot them a glare. “You have only two options. One, you pay me;

or two, I break your legs!”

“You! That’s just robbery!” Julie was exasperated.

“So what if I am?” She delivered a kick to Julie which sent her sprawling to the

ground once again. “Keep running your mouth and see if I’ll kill you!”

“Stop it!” Dahlia stepped between them, hiding Julie behind her. “You lay anot

her finger on her and you’ll pay dearly for it!” she roared.

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The red-haired lady raised her hand and slapped Dahlia hard on the face. “Who do you think you are to speak to me like that?”

“You!” Dahlia held her red and swollen face in her hand, her expression livid.

These people were downright barbaric!

“I’ll say this one last time, pay up, or you’ll be sorry!”

“We did nothing wrong! Why should we pay?” Dahlia argued.

“You’re not paying? Then I guess I’ll just slash your face up!” With a vicious smile, the red-haired lady continued, “It’d be a pity for you to lose your pretty little face! I’d like to see if you’d dare to show up in public again after I’m done with you.”

“Don’t you dare!” Dahlia’s expression froze.

“Try me!” With a wave of her hand, the red-

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haired lady called out to her friends, “Guys, hold her still!”

“On it!” Her friends came forward with mean smiles on their faces as they pinned

her to the

hood

of the car.

“I must say, you’ve got a perfect face!” The red-

haired lady took out a pocket knife and began gently grazing it on

Dahlia’s face. “But I do not

like seeing things perfect, so I guess I’ll just have to ruin it!” And then she

raised her hand and brought it down to Dahlia’s face quickly. But before the knife came in contact with Dahlia’s face, a loud clang was

heard as a silver needle flew through the air, accurately hitting the knife’s blade. A

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sharp pain shot through the red-haired lady's hand, and the pocket knife she

had in her hand clattered to the ground.

"Who's there? Who did that?" She whipped her head around quickly with a dark

expression.

"What gave you the guts to assault others in broad daylight?" A handsome man

walked out from behind the car.

"Dustin?" Dahlia and Julie were both elated to see him. It was as though he was their savior, as they had yet to see him lose

in a fight. When Dustin noticed Dahlia's swollen cheeks, his expression darkened and his gaze became sharp.

"Where did you come from? And why are you sticking your nose in other people's

business?" the red-haired lady asked hostilely.

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“You wretched b*tch! That man is the head of security for our company! You’re in deep trouble today!” Julie shouted haughtily now that Dustin was there.

“Hah! And here I was wondering who this rascal was. So it turns out that he’s nothing but a security guard?” The red-haired lady scoffed contemptuously.

“Looks like someone is trying to be the hero here to save the day now? Take a look in the mirror! If you know what’s good for you, you better get lost, or I’ll beat the crap out of you too!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 586 - Chapter 586

The young men and women, who were with the red-

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haired lady, began clamoring, disregarding
Dustin's presence.

“Get down on your knees and apologize, or I'll break your arms and legs!”

Dus

tin demanded coldly.

“My! cocky, aren't you?” One of the men walked up to Dustin and poked
him i

n the chest rudely, taunting him as he did so, “Do you know
who we are, loser? How dare you act so arrogantly with
us? I'll-”

Before he could finish his sentence, he was struck with full force across
the fa

ce. A loud slap

could be heard as he was sent flying through the air, crashing through a car
wi

ndow head—

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first. The top half of his body went right through the window and into the car, whereas the other half of his body dangled outside of the car. “How dare you slap my friend? Do you have a death wish?” The lady with the red hair was infuriated by Dustin’s actions. In one swift motion, she launched herself toward Dustin at an unbelievable speed. When she got near, she threw a punch at Dustin with all her might, making a whooshing sound. She was obviously a trained martial artist. Then, without even the slightest change in expression, Dustin grabbed her fist and gave it a firm tug. A loud cracking sound

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was heard, and her arm was instantly fractured. Shocked by what had happened, she stood there, frozen in place. It wasn't until the pain hit her that she finally let out a blood-curdling shriek. But midway through her shriek, she was cut off by a hand grabbing at her throat.

“Since your parents didn't raise you right, I'll educate you on some manners to day.” Without saying anything else, Dustin went ahead and gave her two hard slaps on the face. The lady with the red hair saw stars, and her nose bled from the impact.

“Y—

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you hit me? Do you even know who I am? I'm Maggie Doyle from the prestigious
Doyle family!

"The red-haired lady glared fiercely at Dustin.

"The Doyle family?" Julie, who

had been gloating over Maggie's misfortune, immediately paled.

The Doyle family was one of the Fabulous Five and had

deep roots in Millsburg. They also had

strong connections, making them incredibly powerful. With the level of influence

the Doyle family possessed, Julie knew that none of them could afford to
offend her.

end her.

"What?" Dahlia frowned slightly as her expression turned grave. No

wonder she

was acting so arrogantly! It was because she had the Doyle family

backing her.

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er up! That made things difficult.

“We’re sorry, Miss Doyle! This is all just a misunderstanding. Please don’t be

mad; we’ll pay you for your loss!” Julie immediately apologized to

Maggie resp

ectfully once she wrapped her head around the piece of information.

After she was done apologizing, she shouted at Dustin, “Hey Dustin! What are

you doing? Let go of Miss Doyle right this instant!”

“Hahaha! So you’re scared now? I told you that you were going to regret it!” M

aggie smirked sinisterly. “And you bastard, weren’t you all high and mighty jus

t a while ago? Where’s your arrogant attitude now? You crossed a line when y

ou placed your hands on me! You better get down

1/2

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Chapter of
on your knees and apologize to us. And break your arms yourself, or I'll see to it that you die such a horrible death that you regret the day you were born!"

"Quick, Dustin! Get on your knees and apologize! I do not want to be implicated!" Julie urged.

"Down on your knees!"

"Get down!"

"Go on, down on your knees!"

Maggie's friends yelled at Dustin. They were already used to seeing such situations because, no matter who it was, as long as they found out Maggie's identity, they would bend to her will. And that was a show of true power.

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“On my knees, was it? Very well.” Dustin nodded. Then he grabbed a hold of

Maggie, slamming her to the ground. With a dull thud, Maggie fell heavily to her knees. Instantly, her knees were a bloody mess of flesh, blood, and bones.

Everyone fell silent.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 587 -

Chapter 587

“Ahhh!” Maggie, who had her kneecaps fractured, let out an ear-piercing scream. She fell flat on the ground and rolled around in pain.

“What?” Everyone was shocked by what they saw. None of them had expected

Dustin to hurt Maggie, even after she revealed her identity. He truly showed

her no mercy.

But she was the daughter of the great Doyle family! No matter where she went

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, people always tried their best to please her, and nobody dared cross her. It was beyond everyone's comprehension that Dustin would actually break her k

necaps! It was insane!

“Are you

out of your flipping mind, Dustin? Do you know what you've done?”

After the i

nitial shock wore off, Julie leaped to her feet, her face white as a sheet.

“You! How dare you hurt Miss Doyle? You're done for! All of you!”

“That's right! The Doyles aren't ever going to let you go! This is no longer abo

ut the money!”

Maggie's friends clamored in fury. As scions of wealthy families, they were all

used

to bullying others; never the other way around. This rascal had bit off more tha

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n he could chew!

You arrogant, overbearing bullies. I'm just teaching you a lesson for bullying th

ose weaker than you. If you're not happy with it, come at me anytime,"

Dustin

said indifferently. This was not the first time he had crossed a Doyle. He had b

eaten Duncan Doyle up not too long ago, and it didn't make much of a differen

ce to him anymore to offend Maggie, who was also a Doyle.

"You're a gutsy one, bastard! We're not done with you!"

And with that, Maggie's friends quickly helped her up and ran away. If even M

aggie, who came from a family with a strong martial arts background, could no

t go against Dustin, they'd be done for if they challenged him.

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“You—you—you! You’re a nutjob! You’ve put all of us in trouble now by messing with Miss Doyle!” Julie was terrified. Now that Maggie was in such a state, the Doyles were certainly not going to back off. And not only was Dustin going to be in trouble, but Julie would also be implicated. Influential and wealthy families like the Doyles were impossible to reason with once they decided to seek revenge.

“Dustin! You were too impulsive!” Dahlia’s brows were tightly knitted, and her expression was dark. She had yet to make a name for herself in Millsburg, and things would only be more difficult for her now that they had offended such a powerful

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l family as the Doyles.

“Don’t you worry. I’m not afraid of their retaliation.” Dustin was unbothered by their reactions.

“Hah! You say that now! The Doyles are such an influential and wealthy family

! How can you afford to get on their bad side?” Julie screamed at him.

“It’s true, I can’t. But some people can. I know some people in Millburg who ca

n easily deal with this,” Dustin said calmly.

“You mean Natasha Harmon, don’t you?” Dahlia asked huffily, her words lace

d with sarcasm. Well, if you have her help, things might just work out fine.

Afte

r all, you’re such lovebirds, aren’t you?”

1/2

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Chacte 587

“What are you thinking, Dahlia? Do I look like such a boy toy who gets a woman

to protect me?” Dustin rolled his eyes.

“Yes.”

“Yes!”

Both Dahlia and Julie exclaimed in unison.

Dustin was left speechless. Why did everyone think that he was a boy toy?

When,

in fact, he had

worked hard and honestly for all his accomplishments? Maybe he really should

not have kept such

a low profile all this time.

Just then, Julie’s phone rang. She picked it up, and soon after, her face fell.

“What? You’ve found Terrence? Where is he? Sure. We’ll be there right away!”

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“What is it?” Dahlia asked.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 588 -
Chapter 588

“Mom just called me to say that someone spotted Terrence having a meal
at S

affron Restaurant.

She’s heading over with Aunt Florence and wants us to come along to
catch t

he swindler too!”

Julie told Dahlia.

“Terrence Stone? How dare that cheat show his face in public again?”

Dahlia

was furious. He had nearly made her family go bankrupt because of the
issue

with the abandoned building. In the end, it was Dustin who took one for
the fa

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mily and bought it over. Hence, she had nothing good to say about Terrence.

“Stop being idle, Dustin! Go, get a car! We need to make Terrence give back all the mone y he ripped us off!” Julie said resentfully.

“I’ve bought over the abandoned building, so neither of you made any losses.

Why are you both so worked up?” Dustin couldn’t comprehend their anger.

“Hey! What do you mean? A con man like Terrence needs to be taught a less

on! We should act for justice!” Julie declared righteously.

“Is that so?” Dustin smiled. He knew very well what was going on in Julie’s he

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ad. Her declaration of justice was bullshit. She was just peeved that she was scammed, so she wanted to get some form of compensation from Terrence. Taking a different car, the three of them hurried off to Saffron Restaurant. Saffron Restaurant was a nice eatery with a good ambiance, excellent service, and exquisite food, so it was only to be expected that a place like that would charge exorbitant prices. Over in a private room at Saffron Restaurant, Terrence, who had dressed up flashily, was having a meal with the wrong kind of people. “I’ve got good news for you, Terrence.” After having one too many drinks, a man with a rounded

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face said, “I’ve heard from some official sources that the abandoned construction site will be developed as a key project. Its value is rapidly increasing now!” “What did you say? Key project?” Terrence was stunned by what he heard. “You’re not joking, are you, Richie? That place’s trash! Why would anyone invest money in developing it?” “It’s true!” The man with the rounded face said, “My father works with the relevant department, and the information has been confirmed! There’s no mistaking that!” “Didn’t you buy that plot of land where the abandoned construction is, Terrence?” Someone asked.

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“That’s right! I recall that too! I could not understand why Terrence would buy that piece of land back then! In hindsight, I guess you already knew about it then, didn’t you?”

“You’re something else, Terrence! How could you predict where the developments would be? Do you have some sort of insider information?”

“Congratulations, Terrence! You’ve struck gold this time around! Don’t forget about us when you make it big!”

1/2

Chapter 588

Terrence’s friend flattered him and tried to court his favor.

Terrence, however, sat frozen where he was for a long time. Never had he

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amed that the abandoned construction site that nobody wanted anything to do

with would suddenly transform into such a valuable piece of land overnight!

“What’s wrong, Terrence? Are you feeling alright?” Terrence’s friend asked.

“Hahaha! He must be having problems coming to terms with the fact that he’s

going to be filthy rich!” Someone jested.

“Ri–

Richie, how much does that abandoned building cost now?” Terrence asked t

entatively.

“At least two billion!” Richie said.

“Two billion?” Terrence felt like he’d been struck by lightning, and he blanched

.

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Under everyone's disbelieving gaze, Terrence gave himself two slaps on the face. "I—I'm the greatest idiot!" How could he have just sold off a plot of land worth two billion dollars? Was there anyone out there more dumb than him? Just as everyone wondered what was wrong with Terrence, the door of the private room was kicked open with a loud bang. Then, Florence, Victoria, and a few others barged in through the door. And they were fuming. "Terrence Stone! There you are!" "Give me back my money! Give me all the money that you've swindled off me!"

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 589 - Chapter 589

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“You swindler! Give me back my money!” Florence began shouting aggressively by the moment she entered. She had even gotten several stout and burly women to come along with her to back her
1. up.

“Why are you here?” A sudden feeling of guilt came over Terrence, and his expression changed. He had not expected them to barge in while he was having a meal.

“How are we going to catch the swindler if we didn’t come here personally?” Victoria shot him a glare.

“That’s right! How dare you enjoy dining in such a luxurious place after cheating us of our money? You’re utterly shameless!” Florence demanded

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with her hands on her hips.

“Who are these shrews, Terrence? Should we throw them out?” Terrence’s friend

asked meanly. Terrence was about to be the wealthiest one among them, so they were all dying to suck up to him.

“No, that won’t be necessary. I know them.” An idea came to Terrence, and he

quickly told his friends, “You guys

head on back for now. I’ve got some personal matters to deal with. I’ll buy you

all a meal some other day.” And with that, he urged his friends to leave the private

room.

“I don’t give a damn about what

tricks you have up your sleeves, Terrence. Give me my money now!

“Victoria was not about to back off any time soon.

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“Victoria, let’s sit down and talk, shall we? Don’t get all worked up.” With a smile

on his face, he poured everyone a cup of tea.

“Cut the crap, you swindler!” Not wishing to waste her time on him,

Victoria knocked

the cup of

tea over.

“I don’t think I follow, Victoria. When have I swindled you?” Terrence

pretended

not to understand

what she was going on about.

“Oh, so you’re still trying to deny what you’ve done?” Victoria shot

daggers at

him with her eyes.

“You’re playing the fool with us, are you? Here, I’ll help jog your

memory. A w

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week ago, you swindled us into purchasing the plot of land where the abandoned building was, for a total of a hundred million dollars. Do you remember now?

” Florence’s piercing gaze bore into Terrence. That piece of land had nearly caused her to go bankrupt, and she still had recurring nightmares about it.

“You’re both mistaken!” Terrence sighed and acted like he had been wronged.

“About that piece of land, that was all because of my friend. I’m a victim just like you! I’d been cheated out of my money too!”

“That’s rubbish! Do you think we’d buy that?” Victoria had a skeptical expression.

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“She’s right! Why did you disappear for the past few days if you’re a victim too? We couldn’t find you, nor could we contact you. I’m sure that you’ve conspired against us together with your friend!” Florence shouted. “I didn’t! I really am a victim too!” With the most miserable look he could manage, Terrence said, “I haven’t shown myself for the past few days because I was too ashamed to face you! Besides, I’ve

1/2
Chapter 588

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wa

s too ashamed to face you! Besides, I’ve

1/2

Chapter 580

been trying to locate my friend to get him to pay back the money that he
rippe

d off of you! I’ve been doing that for you!”

“You claim to be so righteous, but

where’s our money?” Florence demanded. She wasn’t going to believe his
big

talk anymore. If he did not return their money, everything he said was as
goo

d as

trash.

“My friend has disappeared without a trace. I suspect that he has long
since fl

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ed to another city.” Terrence sighed deeply.

“Hah! I knew you were going to say that!” Florence smiled sardonically.

“Although my friend has run off with your money, I’ll take full responsibility for t

he money you’ve lost!” He declared righteously with a resolute demeanor.

Everyone was taken aback by his words, and they all had an astonished expr

ession on their faces. It was beyond their expectation that he would take resp

onsibility for the matter, as they thought that he would deny everything.

“So, what you’re saying is that you’ll pay us our money?” Victoria asked tentati

vely.

“Of course!” Terrence nodded earnestly. “I may be a victim too, but

at the end of the day, all of you were implicated only because of me, so I’ll pay

you what you lost in full!”

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“Well...” Florence and Victoria exchanged a sheepish glance. For a moment, neither of them knew how to react.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 590 - Chapter 590

Florence and Victoria came for Terrence to get their money back. In fact, they were prepared to resort to violence to get things done, ready to teach him a lesson the moment Terrence tried to pull anything funny. However, they had not foreseen that he would readily admit his mistakes and even humbly tell them that he would pay them for their loss. For a moment, both of them were unsure if he really was a swindler. Co

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uld it be possible that Terrence was indeed innocent?

“If you truly are a victim too, Terrence, where would you get the money to pay

us back?” Florence

was doubtful.

“Indeed, I do not have the money right now, but I can borrow some from people

around me.” Terrence sighed before he continued, “I’ve got some connections

here in Millsburg, and I have plenty of friends. Did you see those people who

were here with me earlier on? I invited them here for a meal so that I could borrow

some money from them to pay you your loss.”

Florence and Victoria were moved by his words. They were impressed by his

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resolution to pay them their money and even went as far as to borrow money from others. From the looks of things, they had misunderstood him. “Have you gotten any money from them yet, Terrence?” Victoria mellowed down and asked cautiously. “I have, and it’s just enough to cover your loss.” Terrence nodded. “Well, we’re not in a rush to get the money back. You can take your time. It’s good to see that you’re fine.” Victoria smiled sheepishly. “Yes, that’s right! We were too impulsive and misunderstood you. Please don’t take it to heart.” Florence quickly added. “Oh, it’s all my fault. I’m the one who’s brought you trouble. A man should mak

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e right what he's done wrong. I'll transfer you the money now." Terrence took out his phone and was about to make the transaction.

"Hey! We're all family! What's the rush?" Florence smiled radiantly at him. "My bank account number is 622700030..."

"Wait a minute!" Terrence suddenly stopped midway through typing in his password and pretended as if he had just thought of something.

I can give you your money back, but the ownership of the plot of land with the abandoned construction should be transferred back to me."

"Why would you want that? It's basically worthless, Victoria asked.

"It's not about how much it's worth. Since I'm borrowing money from my friend

s, it only makes

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sense that I give them something as collateral, and I think that piece of land will work just fine.”

Terrence explained earnestly.

“I see...” Victoria nodded and continued, “But the ownership of that piece of la

nd is no longer with us.”

“It’s not with you?” Terrence’s eyes widened. “Did you sell it?”

“That’s right!” Victoria grinned gleefully. “We sold that piece of land to a gullible person.”

“Who was it? Who was the one that bought it?” Terrence leaped out of his sea

t anxiously. Damn it!

1/2

Chapter 589

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been trying to locate my friend to get him to pay back the money that he ripped

off of you! I've been doing that for you!"

"You claim to be so righteous, but where's our money?" Florence demanded.

She wasn't going to believe his big talk anymore. If he did not return their money,

everything he said was as good as trash.

"My friend has disappeared without a trace. I suspect that he has long since fled

to another city." Terrence sighed deeply.

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 591 -
Chapter 591

“Speak of the devil! The simpleton is here!” Florence had barely finished her sentence when a group of three came in through the doors of Saffron Restaurant. It was none other than Dustin, Dahlia, and Julie. “Terrence Stone!” Julie’s eyes swept the place once she entered. She quickly spotted Terrence in the private room and stormed over angrily. “Julie, hear me out!” Terrence was just about to explain himself with an awkward smile on his face when, without any prior warning, Julie slapped him across the face. Caught off guard, he cupped his cheek with his hand, unable to react.

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“Why are you being so aggressive, Julie?” Victoria reprimanded her immediately.

“Why are you defending him, Mom? Did he not deserve that?” Beside herself

with anger, Julie saw nothing wrong with her actions. He deserved that slap

very much for cheating her money and taking advantage of her feelings for him.

“You’re mistaken! Terrence isn’t a swindler!” Victoria swiftly pulled Julie aside.

“He’s not a swindler? Well, if he isn’t a swindler, are you implying that I’m the li

ar? Has something gotten into you, Mom? Why are you defending him? Julie’s

fury was unabated.

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“Don’t jump to conclusions. Listen to me, I’ll tell you everything...”

Without any room for hesitation, Victoria explained to Julie in detail everything that Terrence had told them earlier. She made the whole thing sound so reasonable and made Terrence out to be the most considerate person, convincing Julie with her genuine and sincere words. When paired with Terrence’s miserable expression, Julie could not help but be convinced.

“What? So Terrence is innocent? I was wrong in hitting him, then?” Julie was convinced by the story that Victoria told her and quickly realized that she was wrong.

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“Exactly! You acted too impulsively. Quick, apologize to Terrence!”

Victoria instructed her.

“I’m

sorry, Terrence; I didn’t mean to do that. Does it still hurt? Here, I’ll rub the pai

n away.” Julie’s attitude took a 180–degree turn, and she apologized gently.

“Don’t worry about it. I was the one who did not tell you the full story, that’s wh

y you thought I

was a swindler.” Terrence forced a smile.

“You should have told me earlier how things were We can always face proble

ms together. It hurts

me to see you in such turmoil,” Julie said emotionally as she clasped

Terrence

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's hand in her own.

Dustin was left speechless when he saw how lovey–
dovey they were acting. Were these people dimwits? How could they be
foole

d by Terrence with just a few words? Too ashamed to meet them? Went
arou

nd borrowing money from others just to pay them back? How could
anyone bu

y such garbage?

Dustin thought, “No wonder they were swindled.”

How else would Terrence be able to trick them if it weren't for them being
suc

h foolish people? At the thought of that, Dustin took a

glance at Dahlia beside him and noticed that she had a doubtful and wary
exp

ression. It seemed like she did not believe a single word Terrence said.

1/2

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“Alright, alright. Now that we have got everything straight, we’re all still family,”

Victoria said. Joyfully. She was pleased with Terrence as a person. He was a

promising young man who was very considerate. She deemed him a good cat

ch for her daughter.

“Ah, right. Terrence suddenly turned to Dustin. “Dustin, I heard from Victoria th

at they sold the abandoned construction site to you. Is that true?”

“It is What about it?” Dustin did nothing to hide the fact that he’d bought the la

nd.

“That’s great.” Terrence heaved a sigh of relief. Then, with a smile on his face,

he said, “I don’t like taking advantage of others. Since I was the one who brou

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ght this problem upon all of you, I can't continue to let you bear the loss. I'll purchase the piece of land from you at the original price that you bought it for."

"You'll purchase it?" Julie's face fell when she heard that. In a hushed tone, she whispered, "Terrence, have you lost your mind? It wasn't easy selling off that trashy piece of land! Why are you even buying it back? Why would you bring such loss upon yourself?"

"You shouldn't say that, Julie!" Terrence put on a righteous facade. "Dustin is my friend. Since something as bad as this has happened, we cannot take advantage of him! We must be righteous and hold fast to our principles!"

"But-" Julie was about to retort, but Terrence

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waved her off. “Say no more. A real man must stand up for his actions. We should not lose our principles just for a little benefit!”

With Terrence’s little righteous speech, almost everyone looked at him with admiration. Especially Julie, who looked at him like he had a halo over his head.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 592 - Chapter 592

That was the mannerism of a true gentleman! At that moment, Terrence appeared heroic.

“You’re in luck, Dustin! What are you waiting for? Why aren’t you thanking Terrence? He decided to buy that rubbish off your hands!” Julie announced proudly.

“You’re in luck, Dustin! What are you waiting for? Why aren’t you thanking Terrence? He decided to buy that rubbish off your hands!” Julie announced proudly.

“You’re in luck, Dustin! What are you waiting for? Why aren’t you thanking Terrence? He decided to buy that rubbish off your hands!” Julie announced proudly.

“You’re in luck, Dustin! What are you waiting for? Why aren’t you thanking Terrence? He decided to buy that rubbish off your hands!” Julie announced proudly.

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“There’s no need for that. We’re all friends. I can’t bear to see you suffer such a loss. Just give me the ownership of that piece of land, and we’ve got a deal,”

Terrence said with an amiable smile.

“When did I agree to the deal?” Dustin asked.

“What?” Terrence thought that he had heard Dustin wrong. He never thought t

hat he would be rejected. Julie and the rest of them were astonished too.

Una

ble to comprehend what was going on in Dustin’s head, they assumed that he

had lost his marbles. After all, who would turn down money and choose to hol

d on to a piece of trash?

“Dustin, did you not hear what I said? The abandoned construction site is wort

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h nothing, and you have no use for it! Why don't you just sell it to me?"

Terren

ce tried to talk some sense into Dustin.

"Why do you want it if it's worth nothing?" Dustin countered.

"I'm doing this for your sake, of course!" Terrence said with all earnestness. "T

he reason all this happened was because of me. I trusted someone who I sho

uld not have trusted, but I should not have pulled you all into it. Therefore, I sh

all bear full responsibility for this at all costs!"

"Oh, how nice." Dustin smiled faintly. "I thank you for your thoughtful gesture,

but no thanks. I'm not selling it."

"Why not?" Terrence could not believe his ears.

"Because we're friends. Just as you do not wish to take advantage

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of me, I refuse to do the same!”

“That’s all right; I do not mind bearing the loss.”

“But I do. So, forget about it.”

“No! We cannot forget about it! If you think that my offer isn’t enough, I can ad

d a bit more to the original price that you bought it for!”

“This is not about money. It’s about principles. You said it yourself, we must b

e righteous and stay

true to our principles.”

“You!” Terrence was a hair’s breadth away from losing his composure.

Damn i

t! Why was the idiot so stubborn? He had said everything he could to convince

him to sell the piece of land, but nothing seemed to work. Exasperated, Terrence was left speechless.

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“Alright, it’s getting late. I have some things to handle back at the company, so I’ll be taking my leave with Dahlia now. You guys carry on.” Dustin could not be bothered to converse with them any longer, so he exchanged a look with Dahlia, and they got out of the restaurant as fast as they could.

“Hey, Dustin! You...” Refusing to let Dustin go just like that, Terrence was about to give chase but was held back by Julie. “Terrence, you cannot be too kind. Since that idiot turned you down, let’s not push it. Why would you give him money when he doesn’t even appreciate it?”

1/2

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Chapter 592

“Exactly! We all saw how sincere you were. He was the one who rejected your kindness. Don’t be too hard on yourself,” Victoria echoed. In her eyes, Terrence was every bit of the perfect son-in-law. His only drawback was that he was too righteous, which made him an easy target for others to take advantage of.

“If you’re still feeling bad about it, Terrence, why don’t you use the money and buy me some branded handbags?” Julie asked coquettishly.

“Handbags? Fuck you and your handbags!” Terrence finally flipped and shoved her aside. “Do you know that I’ve just lost two billion dollars?”

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“Two billion dollars? What do you mean?” Shocked, Julie could not make heads or tails of Terrence’s words.

“Truth be told, the land with the abandoned construction has been officially listed as the prime location for a key development. Its value has now gone up to two billion dollars! I’d given you wealth beyond measure when I sold you that plot of land. But look what you’ve done! You gave Dustin Rhys the perfect opportunity to get filthy rich! I can’t believe how stupid you all are!” Terrence roared frustratedly, growling almost. He was so close to ripping his hair out of vexation.

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“Key development?”

“Two billion?”

“Immeasurable wealth?”

“Quick! Go after him!”

After a momentary stun, it finally dawned on Julie and the rest of them how big of a loss they had made. Without a moment to spare, they immediately rush

ed out of the restaurant. But Dustin was no longer anywhere to be seen.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 593 -

Chapter 593

On the way back, Dustin could tell that Dahlia had questions for him but was b

attling herself against questioning him. He smiled to himself at her curiosity an

d

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decided to give her an opening. “Shoot away if you’ve got any questions.

There

’s no need to hold them in.”

“I do not understand why you turned down Terrence’s offer to purchase the site

of the abandoned building!” Dahlia blurted out.

“Everyone knows that it’s worthless now, so there’s no point holding onto it. You

would have been better off selling it and recovering your loss!” Though she

had promised and was determined to

not concern herself with Dustin’s

business anymore, she still could not help but feel bad that he

had missed out on a good opportunity to make up for the loss he had made.

“Well, why would Terrence want to buy that piece of land when everyone knows

that it’s

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worthless?” Dustin asked.

“Didn’t he just say that he doesn’t want to take advantage of you because you’

re friends?” Dahlia

retorted.

“Haha! Do you really think that Terrence would be so kind?” Dustin smiled me

aningfully. “If he is

as righteous and

responsible as he claims to be, he would not have disappeared without a trac

e for

the past few days.

“Well...” Dahlia’s brows knitted together as she fell deep into thought. It was tr

ue that she had her

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doubts about Terrence's integrity. But after seeing how sincere he appeared, even offering to buy back the abandoned construction site, she wavered and started to believe his words.

"Let me tell you the truth. The reason Terrence offered to buy the plot of land was not because of his conscience or his righteousness. It was only because he knew that its value had skyrocketed.

Dustin chuckled.

"Skyrocket? The abandoned construction site has been sitting there for almost a decade, and nobody wanted anything to do with it. How could it possibly increase in value?"

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” Dahlia wondered aloud.

“Nothing is impossible, Dahlia. Haven’t I told you that that plot of land has officially been listed as an area for a key development? Terrence must have received some news about it that caused him to change his mind. Do you really think that he’d be so kind?” Dustin had a faint smile on his face.

“How much is that piece of land worth now?” Dahlia asked tentatively. “Two billion dollars at least. And that’s a conservative estimation.” Dustin dropped a bombshell.

“Two billion?” Dahlia’s eyes went as wide as saucers. It was bewildering to thi

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nk that a piece of land could go from absolutely worthless to worth two billion dollars overnight. She had toiled hard for years on end, and in the end, she had not even made as much as Dustin did in a single day. His uncanny luck was infuriating, to say the least. All of a sudden, Dustin's phone rang. He pulled it out to see that the call was from Florence. He paused and gave it some thought before answering the call and putting it on speaker mode. "Hey Dustin, where are you? There's something I'd like to talk to you about." An unbelievably kind

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and gentle voice came through the speakers. Dahlia felt her skin crawl at how

cloyingly sweet her mother sounded. When has she ever been so soft-spoken?

“We’re on the way back to the office, Florence. Is anything the matter?”

You ca

n just tell me through the phone,” Dustin said.

Clearing her throat, Florence asked awkwardly, “Well, here’s the thing. I’d like

to buy back the abandoned construction site. Would that be possible?”

“Why would you want to spend your money on something so worthless?”

You’ll

clearly be making a

loss. A hint of humor could be heard in Dustin’s tone.

“So be it. As your ex-mother-in-law, I cannot watch you suffer the loss and do nothing about it.

Better me than you to take the loss.”

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“It’s not a big deal for me. I’ve still got some disposable income. I’ll survive.”

“That wouldn’t do! I’m a person who stands firm in and upholds my moral values!

I’ve been losing sleep over selling it to you at a high price. I feel like I’ve cheated

you out of your money. I feel so bad for that, so I have a mind to buy it back to atone for my mistake.”

“That really won’t be necessary. After all, you mortgaged your house to get the money. If you lose that, you won’t even have a roof over your head!

That’d be terrible!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 594 -
Chapter 594

“That’s alright, I can move into a smaller house. You, youngsters, are way too

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stressed out these days. As an elder, it's only right for me to help you out how ever I can."

"I'm not stressed out. Life is as breezy as it can get for me."

Dustin and Florence bantered back and forth through the phone, neither of the

m coming clean with the truth. Since Florence took him as an idiot, Dustin gla

dly went along with the act and pretended to not know any better.

It was Dahlia, however, who found the conversation unbearable. She now fully

believed what Dustin had told her. Her mother would not be so nice to Dustin

otherwise. What she said about atoning for her wrongdoings and relieving Dus

tin of his burdens was all bullshit!

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Florence had been grinning from ear to ear when she managed to scam Dustin into buying that piece of land! Now that she knew she had made a loss by selling it, she chose to put on a righteous and upright facade to buy it back instead of being honest with Dustin. She was despicable and greedy!

“Hey! Why are you so stubborn? I’m only doing this for your good, so hurry up and sell me that piece of land!” As the conversation progressed, Florence began to lose her patience. Had it not been for the money, she would never have wasted so much effort coaxing him gently, and would immediately start shouting and cursing.

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ursing at him instead.

“Florence, why are you in such a hurry to purchase the abandoned constructio

n site?” Dustin pressed. This was Florence’s last chance to come clean. If she

told him the truth, he would willingly let her have a share of the profit.

“Have I not made myself clear yet? I can’t bear to see you lose money! I’d rath

er bear the burden myself!” Florence stubbornly refused to spill the truth.

“That’s enough, Mom!” Dahlia finally could take it no more. “Are you still going

to keep on cheating people out of their money?”

“Hey, what’s that supposed to mean? When have I cheated others of their mo

ney?” Florence raised

her voice.

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“Dustin already knows the truth. That piece of land is worth at least two billion dollars! You’ll never be able to buy it back at the original price!” Dahlia exclaimed.

“What?” All was quiet for a while before Florence said sheepishly, “Oh, so you already knew? Why didn’t you tell me earlier?”

“Florence, I’ve already reminded you repeatedly since a week ago! It was you who refused to believe me,” Dustin retorted calmly.

“Oh, look how forgetful I am. I think my age is catching up on me!”

Florence exclaimed regretfully. “Dustin, I was wrong. I’ll listen to all your advice from now on. Can you please sell the piece of land to me?”

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“Had you shown just the slightest bit of honesty earlier on and did not intend t

o trick me out of my money, I’d have readily shared a part of what I profited fro

m it with you. But your actions have

7/2

truly disappointed me, so I will not be selling it to you,” Dustin told her truthfull

y.

“You’re not selling it?” Florence’s voice raised an octave when she heard what

Dustin said. “That belongs to me! What right have you got to not sell it to me?

“

“The ownership of the land belongs to me. I can handle it however I please,” D

ustin said matter–offactly.

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“I don’t care! You better give me back what belongs to me, or I’ll make you regret it!” Florence threatened menacingly. Just a few minutes ago, she had spoken so gently and kindly, but now her true colors showed.

“Behaving like this won’t get you anything,” Dustin said.

“You— you bastard! You vile, shameless scumbag! I’ll sue you! I’ll sue you for swindling me of my money! You—”

Florence spewed a torrent of curses through the phone with no care in the world.

But she was cut off when Dahlia ended the call. How aggravating! She was the

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one who bore bad intentions, and she had the gall to berate Dustin? Utterly unreasonable! As Florence's daughter, Dahlia felt ashamed of her actions,

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 595 - Chapter 595

James was happily engrossed in a game of Taxus Poker at an illegal casino that evening. Beside him sat a young lady with short hair who was dressed in revealing attire. Judging from the casino chips on the table, it looked like they had been winning a lot. "I have a pair of Queens. Show your hand!" A man with a hooked nose who sat opposite James revealed his hand

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“You dare challenge me with just a pair of Queens? Keep your eyes open, buddy. I’ve got Three of a Kind” James grinned, flipping his cards over to show a pair of sixes. Since there was a six in one of the five community cards, they made a set of three sixes, also known as three of a kind.

The rules of Texas Poker are simple. There were five community cards, and each player was dealt two hole cards. These can then be combined in any way to form the best five-card hand. The highest-ranking hand is a Royal Flush, followed by Four of a Kind, Full House, Flush, Three of a

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Kind, Two Pair, One Pair, and finally, a High Card.

*James, you've won again! You're amazing!" The lady with short hair cheered

excitedly, admiration evident in her eyes.

Hahaha! Well, luck isn't the only factor in a game of Texas Poker. It's a matter

of skill too. I can

see through all his tricks! There's no way I'd lose to him!" James bragged glee

fully.

"I say, based on your chips, you've probably won at least a million dollars, hav

en't you, James?"

The young lady asked as her eyes shone brightly.

"More or less. Here, this is for you." James pressed a chip worth 20 thousand

dollars into her hand

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with a chuckle.

“Thank you, James!” The young lady flashed him a radiant smile before planting a kiss on his cheek.

“Come on, let’s go enjoy ourselves!” James reached out to hook an arm around the lady’s neck. He was happy with how much he’d won and was ready to leave to enjoy the rest of the night.

“You have a winning streak tonight, James. Why don’t you play some more while you’re winning? It’s a good opportunity for you to make some more money while Lady Luck is on your side!” The young lady did not seem to want to leave yet.

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“Oi, rascal! Are you running off after winning just so little? What a loser! Would you dare play another game with me?” The man with the hooked nose who sat opposite James taunted.

“This is a golden opportunity, James. Think of all the money you can win off of him. You shouldn’t miss the chance!” The young lady persuaded him in a hushed whisper.

“You’ve got a point there.” James nodded and looked at the man with a smirk.

“It looks like you enjoy losing money. I’ll see to it that you walk out without a single cent today! Deal the cards!” With a wave of his hand, another round commenced.

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Half an hour later.

“Oops, a Straight. I think I’ve won again.” The man opposite James showed his hand, revealing a set of Straight.

1/2

Change pok

“Damn it! I lost again!” Losing his temper, James threw the pair of Kings in his

hand on the table. With beads of sweat on his forehead and red, bloodshot eyes,

he looked irritated.

Just half

an hour ago, he had been basking in the joy of winning continuously, making

himself more than a million dollars without breaking a sweat. But now, it seemed

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ed as though Lady Luck had frowned on him, and he had lost everything that

he had won earlier in the evening. What terrible luck!

“Again!” Unwilling to accept defeat, James gestured for the dealer to start a new round.

“You’re out of chips, James.” The young lady reminded him.

“What?” James looked down at the table to see that he had indeed run out of chips.

“Hahaha! Is that all you’ve got? What a cheapo!” The man with the hooked nose

ridiculed James, Get lost then if you haven’t got any more money. Quit making

an embarrassment of yourself here!”

“The f*ck did

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you just say?” James slammed his hands on the table as he bolted straight up in his seat, fury written on his face.

“What? Did I say anything wrong? Don’t act like you’re a big shot if you don’t have the money, loser! ” Then, with a contemptuous expression, he called out to the young lady, “Hey, hot stuff, what are you doing with a loser like that? Why don’t you join me instead? I’ll make sure you have the best of everything!”

“You-”

!” James was so vexed that he ground his teeth together. But there was nothing much he could do.

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“James, I heard that they allow players to borrow money from them here.

Do y

ou want to give it a try?” The young lady asked.

“Let’s do it! I’ll win back everything I lost tonight!” James roared. He

could nev

er look past the other man’s taunts. Especially not in front of a woman he

fanci

ed.

“Sure. I’ll get it done immediately.” With a quick nod, the young

lady got up and left. Not long later, she came back with two million dollars

wort

h of chips and a promissory note.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 596 -

Chapter 596

Without even looking at what was typed out on the promissory note, James

pr

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ceeded to sign it and immediately joined the next round of the game. But in less than 15 minutes, he lost all two billion dollars worth of chips again. “We’re out of chips again, James’ Should we borrow more? The young lady asked once again. “Yes! Get as much as you can! James growled. At that moment, he had completely lost control of his senses, his actions only driven by the relentless desire to win back what he lost and make the man with the hooked nose regret what he said. Two hours later, James was drenched in sweat and panting uncontrollably, his eyes were bloodshot. His expression was somewhat horrifying “Sorry man, Three of a Kind and One Pair. That makes a Full House. You’ve l

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lost again. “The man opposite him showed his hand and smiled meanly.

“Go! Borrow some more! I refuse to believe that I’ll keep losing today!

James s

houted.

“You’ve already lost too much, James. They refuse to lend you anymore,”

The

young lady answered

“They’re not lending me anymore? Why not? Do they think that I can’t afford t

o pay them back? I’ll have you know that my sister is the

chairperson of Nicholson Corp.! She has assets worth over a hundred billion d

ollars! James declared proudly,

“Hey, buddy, my boss would like to speak with you.” Out of nowhere, a callous

ed hand rested on

James’ shoulder from behind.

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“Who the hell is touching me? James whipped around immediately. Just as he was about to start acting aggressively, he froze. Behind him stood several insanely buff men who were wearing suits and looked like they were henchmen, staring at him. “What do you want?” James put on a calm facade. “You borrowed quite a huge sum of money throughout the night. My boss would like to talk to you about your payment. Come with us.” As the leader of the group of henchmen spoke, he inconspicuously flashed the gun fastened to his belt. James’ eyes widened. As he dared not go against their wishes, he had no choice but to follow them upstairs to the VIP room

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Over in the VIP room, there was a paunchy man with a cigar perched on his lips and one ankle resting lazily over a knee.

“He’s here, Mr. Doyle.” Two henchmen pushed James into the room and locked the door from outside. James gulped dryly when he saw the room full of menacing and fierce henchmen. His anxiety was uncontainable.

“Do you know who I am?” The paunchy man asked before taking a long swig of his cigar and slowly exhaling, releasing a puff of smoke.

“You look very familiar, Sir. Have we met?” James asked cautiously.

“I’m Doyle. Duncan Doyle,” The man said.

“Duncan Doyle? From the prestigious Doyle family?” James was astonished.

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“It’s good that you know me. Now, let’s talk about my money. So, you borrowed a total of 38 million dollars tonight. How are you going to pay it back?” As Duncan spoke, he slapped a thick stack of promissory notes on the table. Every piece of it had James’ signature on it. “38 million? That much?” James could not believe his ears and quickly flipped through the notes to check. By then, he was already thoroughly drenched in sweat. “Mr. Doyle, these notes prove that I’ve only borrowed 30 million. Where did the extra 8 million come from?” James asked miserably. “Why would I be lending out money if not for the interest?” Duncan asked frost

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ily.

“B—but isn’t the interest too high?” James asked warily.

“Cut the crap! You either pay me what you owe or I’ll chop your limbs off!” Dun

can glared at him.

“N—

no, don’t! I’ll pay!” James was flustered by the situation he was in. “Can you pl

ease give me a few more days to pay up, Mr. Doyle? I promise I’ll pay you in f

ull.”

“No! You are to pay me tonight. Where am I going to find you if you escape?”

Duncan demanded.

“But how am I supposed to produce this much money in one night?”

James co

wered in fear.

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“Didn’t you say that your sister is the chairperson of Nicholson Corp.?
Several million dollars are considered peanuts to her!” Duncan smirked sinisterly.
“What?” James froze up for a while before he continued sheepishly, “Mr. Doyle, knowing my sister, she will most likely refuse to pay my debts. She usually helped him out of most of the trouble he got himself into, but once they had anything to do with gambling or drugs, it was the end of the discussion.”
“Don’t worry. I’ll help you.” Duncan smiled venomously.
“Help me? How will you help me?” James was taken aback by Duncan’s offer to help. But Duncan did not give him a straightforward reply. Instead, he simply

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y gestured to his henchmen and took an axe that they handed him. As James

watched on with terror in his eyes, Duncan swung the axe down in the direction of his wrist.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 597 - Chapter 597

In the president's office at Nicholson Corp, Dahlia took a sip of coffee and continued immersing herself in work. Although Hank didn't show it,

he was facing all sorts of obstacles in private. He pushed every matter to her,

regardless of whether it was big or small, which caused her to be so busy that

she had to work overtime every day till midnight.

"Ms. Nicholson...." Right then, a young female assistant knocked on the door

all of a sudden.

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“What is it?” Dahlia looked up at her. Because Julie wasn’t a very reliable secretary, she hired another assistant, Kelly Porch, to share the workload. “Ms. Nicholson, someone sent you a parcel and asked me to pass it to you directly. The person mentioned that it’s a surprise,” Kelly said, holding a gift box. “Okay, put it on the desk.” Dahlia nodded, then a thought struck her. “Kelly, it’s getting late. You should head home first. You don’t have to wait for me.” “Okay, Ms. Nicholson.” Kelly turned around and left. Dahlia rubbed her eyes and finally finished her work. She turned her gaze to the gift box and decided to open it. However, the moment she opened it, she was so frightened

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that her face went deathly pale. What lay inside the gift box was a bloody hand! It was very obvious that the hand had just been cut off not long ago because the blood had not clotted yet. It was a very shocking sight.

While she was still in shock, her phone suddenly rang. When she answered it, she immediately heard Duncan's voice. "Ms. Nicholson, you must have already received my gift."

"Who are you?" Dahlia's expression went cold.

"Who I am is not important. What's important is that your brother owes me 38

million dollars, and you have to repay his debt," Duncan said plainly.

"Why should I believe you?" Dahlia frowned.

"You don't believe me? Then listen for yourself." Duncan said.

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“Dahlia! Save me! Hurry up and save me! They cut my hand off!” James shout

ed, his voice full of fear and misery.

“James! What’s going on? Why would you owe someone money?” Dahlia hurr

iedly demanded.

“Dahlia! This isn’t the time to ask these questions. Hurry up and come here wit

h the money, or I’m going to die!” James sobbed over the phone.

“Ms. Nicholson, did you hear that? Bring me the money in exchange for him.

Otherwise, I don’t know what other extreme things I’ll do to your brother.”

Dun

can threatened.

“Don’t do anything! You just want money, don’t you? I’ll give it to you!”

said Da

hlia in panic.

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“Okay, then I’ll be awaiting your grand arrival,” Duncan said with a laugh. After hanging up, Dahlia dared not waste another second and, without hesitating, immediately rushed to the casino. She couldn’t just sit around and do nothing when her brother was in danger. While driving, she called Dustin, but he didn’t pick up. She had no choice but to send him a text along with the address. 20 minutes later, Dahlia arrived at the underground casino. After she told someone her name, a gangster led her to a VIP room on the second floor. A bunch of violent-looking gangsters were standing around inside the room. James was kneeling on the floor and trembling, his face streaked with tears and a

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nd snot. Someone. had simply bandaged the stub of his arm where his
hand s
ould be, temporarily stopping the bleeding “Sis‘ You’re finally here!”
When Ja
mes saw Dahlia walk in, he immediately
wept tears of joy as if he saw his savior
“How dare you! Who taught you to gamble?” Dahlia slapped James across
the
face. She knew that her brother liked to gamble. She had always warned
him
against it in all sorts of ways and had even given him a beating before. She
ha
d thought that he would have changed his ways, but who would have
thought t
hat he would get himself into more serious trouble now.
“Ms. Nicholson, I won’t meddle with you disciplining your brother, but
you mus

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t give me the money first,” Duncan said with a cigar between his lips. “It’s you?” The moment Dahlia saw him, she immediately remembered something. She quickly realized that she had seen Duncan before. Previously, when she was eating at a restaurant, he had led a gang of people to look for trouble with Dustin but had gotten beaten up instead. “That’s right. It’s me. Now, can you give me the money?” Duncan said with a mirthless smile. “This is a bank check for 38 million dollars, not a penny less.” Dahlia placed a check on the table. “I don’t want a check. I want the payment in cash,” Duncan said with a shake

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of his head.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 598 -
Chapter 598

“Cash?” Dahlia frowned and said, “Where will I get so much cash at such short notice?”

“That’s for you to figure out. We only accept cash here,” Duncan said casually.

“You’re just making things difficult for me on purpose!” Dahlia’s expression wa

s icy. She would probably need a truck to transport 38 million dollars worth of cash.

“Ms. Nicholson, mind your words, Does your brother still want to keep his other hand?” Duncan swept his gaze toward James.

“You!” Dahlia gritted her teeth and managed to control herself. “Can you give

me two days? I’ll bring you the cash as fast as I can.”

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“I wouldn’t say no, but you have to have a few drinks with me first.”
Duncan stood up slowly and took two glasses out from the drinks cabinet. He filled them with whisky and handed one to Dahlia. “Drink this, and I’ll consider giving you two days.”
“What?” Looking at the glass full of whisky, Dahlia couldn’t help but frown slightly. Duncan obviously didn’t have good intentions. She didn’t know if she could still leave that place after she drank it.
“You refuse? Then you’re just disrespecting me.” Duncan’s smile disappeared slowly as he said, It’s only right for one to repay their debt if they owe money.

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If they can't, then I have no choice but to cut their limbs off. Guys, chop James

'other hand off!'"

"Yes, sir!" Two gangsters laughed evilly and immediately pressed James against

the floor.

"No! Don't chop my hand off!" James was scared out of his wits as he begged

for mercy. "Dahlia! Save me! Save me, quick! I'm your brother! I don't want to

become handicapped. I'm begging you. Hurry up and drink the whisky!"

"Chop it off!" Duncan shouted.

"Wait!" Just as the ax was about to strike, Dahlia shouted hastily, "I'll drink!"

"Haha, that's more like it ... Drink up," Duncan said with a sly smile.

Dahlia took a deep breath, picked up the glass, and downed the whiskey in one

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e go. Even though she knew that something was wrong with it, she had no choice but to drink it because her brother's life was in Duncan's hands. Now, she could only pray that she would hold up.

"Nice! You really are an impressive woman. Come on, let's have another drink!" Duncan filled her glass again. Dahlia frowned deeply, and she hesitated for a moment. But she still finished the glass of whisky. After downing two glasses, she felt lightheaded quickly and felt herself burning.

"Shit!" Dahlia thought. Knowing something was off, she tried to fight the feeling and force herself out the door. However, before she could take more than two steps, her vision went black, and she

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fainted on the floor.

“Hehe... I’ll see how you try to run away from me,” Duncan said while stroking

his chin, his expression perverted.

1/2

Chappe SNE

“Mr. Doyle, wasn’t our deal just about money? How could you break your promise?” As he

witnessed his sister get drugged, James immediately panicked. Even a fool

would know what was going to happen next.

“What’s the matter? You want to avenge your sister?” Duncan laughed

wickedly. “Sure, if you chop off your other hand, then I’ll let your sister go. How does

that sound?”

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“L.. James‘ expression stiffened, and he immediately hung his head. His gaze flitted around as he dared not look at Dahlia, who was lying out cold on the floor.
r.
“A coward, just as I thought. Get lost!” Duncan shouted, and he kicked James to the floor.
“Okay, okay, okay. I‘ll get lost right away.” James looked as if he had just been spared a gruesome death. He dared not hesitate and scrambled out of the room instantly. His pathetic behavior made the whole gang laugh loudly.
“Okay, you guys get out too. Don‘t disturb me.” Duncan waved his hand and dismissed his lackeys from the room. Then, a thought struck him, and he fished out Dahlia’s phone. He called Dustin and

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said, “Hey, Rhys! Do you know who I am? That’s right, it’s me, Duncan Doyle!

Your woman is in my bed right now. I’ll show her a good time tonight.”

The moment he finished speaking, a loud bang sounded as someone kicked t

he door open. Then, a figure with a cold expression came into sight.

“You’ll sh

ow who a good time?”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 599 -

Chapter 599

Dustin stepped through the door, his gaze terrifyingly cold.

From the moment he saw Dahlia’s text, he knew something was wrong, so he

rushed here as fast as he could

“W–what are you doing here?!” Duncan’s eyes widened, and he staggered backward in fear.

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“Didn’t you call me to ask me to come over? Well, now I’m here. What are you going to do?” Dustin began approaching him.

“Someone, come quick!” Duncan screamed.

However, strangely enough, no one outside responded. It was as though those

men stationed outside had disappeared into thin air.

“Where the f*ck are you all? Hello?!” Duncan continued hollering

But no matter how much he yelled, there was no response.

“I warned you before not to cross me again. Or else, you’ll die a miserable death.

What, did you think I was bullshitting you?” Dustin was getting closer and closer.

closer.

“Rhys, you’re on my territory. I’m warning you to

not come any closer, or you won’t step out of this place ever again!”

Duncan said

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houted, putting on a fierce front.

“Tell me, how do you want to die?” Dustin asked coldly.

“Take another step, and I’ll blow your brains out!” At that moment, Duncan suddenly took a gun from the drawer and pointed

it right at Dustin’s head. Now that Duncan had a weapon with him, he believed

that he had the upper hand.

“Really? You can try.” Dustin continued to approach Duncan without a hint of fear.

“You’re f*cking asking for it!” Duncan pulled the trigger without a second thought.

“Bang!” There was the sound of a shot being fired. Yet, Dustin was still standing

in the same spot and did not move a single inch.

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He was completely unharmed from head to toe.

“I missed?” Duncan frowned. He pulled the trigger two more times. Yet, it was the same as before. However, Dustin still looked unruffled a

nd unhurt in the slightest.

“Fuck, I refuse to believe that I can’t kill you!” Duncan clenched his jaw and be

gan to shoot madly until there were no more bullets left.

“Bang, bang, bang!” After a series of gunshots, Dustin was still standing in the

same spot. His body was uninjured; heck, even his clothes weren’t damaged.

“Is this guy a ghost?” Duncan was so scared that cold sweat began to pour fro

m his temples.

At this distance, there was no way Duncan would miss, even if he closed his e

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yes. Yet, he'd fired over a dozen bullets, but he didn't so much as leave a

scra
tch on Dustin. It was absolutely insane.

"Were you trying to kill me with these things?" Dustin slowly opened his
fist to

reveal a handful of

1/2

misshapen bullets in his palm.

"H-how did you do that?" Duncan's expression turned into one of horror.

Could it be that

his opponent had caught all the bullets that he'd shot earlier with his bare
han

d? Was he even f*cking human?!

"Do you want to know? I'll tell you once you're dead With that, Dustin

kicked D

uncan in the

stomach

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Duncan flew backward like a bullet leaving the barrel. He slammed into the wa

ll harshly, leaving a spider crack on the wall. Blood spurted from his nose and

mouth on impact.

“1-

1 am a member of the Doyle family, one of the fabulous five! If you dare lay a

hand on me, my family will never forgive you!” Duncan threatened, his face twi

sting into a ferocious snarl.

Dustin hummed before giving him another kick in the chest. There was the so

und of bones cracking, and Duncan once again coughed up a mouthful of bloo

d. His entire rib cage collapsed on itself.

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“D—
don’t kill me! I’m begging you not to kill me! I know I was wrong! I’ll
never do it
again! I swear, I won’t annoy you ever again!” Duncan begged in between
fits
of coughing up blood.
This time, he was truly afraid.
“Any last words?” Dustin slowly raised his foot. This time, he lifted it
right over
Duncan’s head.
“Wait! Someone intentionally wanted to make you suffer today. It has
nothing t
o do with me. I’m just the runner!”
“Who was it?” Dustin asked coolly.
An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 600 -
Chapter 600

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“If you promise not to kill me, I’ll tell you the truth.” Duncan said, attempting to negotiate terms.

“No thanks. You can just go die.” As soon as Dustin finished speaking, he stomped his foot hard on Duncan’s head

“No-

” Duncan tried to wail before his head exploded into pieces. And just like that, he was dead.

“Mr Rhys, the people outside have been taken care of”

At that moment, two masked martial artists dressed in black garments walked

in. They were elite. shadow guards.

“Excellent. Clean this place up, and send the body straight to the Doyle home,

” Dustin ordered.

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The two exchanged glances, but in the end, they still nodded. “Yes.”
Dustin said nothing more. He carried the unconscious Dahlia and briskly
walk
ed out of the
underground casino.

The moment he stepped out the doors, he noticed a suspicious figure
lurking i
n a corner. It was none other than James, who had managed to escape
earlier

“Come out!” Dustin threw a glance over his shoulder.

“Oh, it’s just you. You scared me.” James couldn’t help but let out a breath
of r

elief when he saw

Dustin’s face. At the same time, he began to criticize him. “Hey, Rhys,
why did

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n't you come earlier? Don't you know how much danger my sister was in just now? Also, if you weren't so slow to come to the rescue, my hand wouldn't have been chopped off. How are you going to compensate me? I'm telling you, without at least eighteen million dollars, I won't-" Before he could finish his sentence, Dustin had already raised his hand and slapped him hard across the face. James stumbled backward from the impact, almost falling over. His cheek began to swell rapidly. "Are- are you crazy? What did you hit me for?!" James cupped his stinging cheek, hi

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s entire body

radiating shock and fury.

“That was for your insolent remarks!”

With a cold face, Dustin raised his hand and gave him another slap. “This

one

is for your lack of

repentance!”

Slap! “This one is for your cowardice!”

Slap! “And this one is for throwing Dahlia under the bus!”

Each slap made a loud ringing sound as it landed on James‘ face. He was

sm

acked so hard that his head began to spin, and blood began to drip from his

n

ose and mouth.

His face was so swollen that he now looked like a pig.

“Stop!” Suddenly, an SUV pulled over to the side of the

road, and Florence immediately jumped off the car and dashed over.

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Chank Sp

“Mom, you’re finally here!” When James saw his mother, he immediately ran i

nto her arms, crying. He wailed. “That bastard Dustin is crazy! Look at what h

e did to my face!”

“Rhys, why did you hit my son?!” Florence flew into a rage.

“Why don’t you ask him what he did?” Dustin shouted back.

“No matter what, you can’t hit my son!” Florence screamed, glaring at Dustin.

“That’s right! Hitting people is wrong! Not to mention, why did you have to beat

him so terribly?”

Julie added.

“Terribly? He should be grateful that I didn’t slaughter him!” Dustin roared with

a frigid look.

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If James hadn't gotten into trouble in the first place, Dahlia wouldn't have gotten dragged down with him.

Even more despicably, that bastard had abandoned his sister and ran for his life alone!

"James, what in the world happened? Tell me everything, and I'll make sure to do right by you!"

Florence demanded, her face darkening.

"Mom, this is all because of Dustin!" James pointed his finger at Dustin, getting his side of the story out first. "He colluded with the owner of the casino to punish me and put me in a crushing gambling debt. Then, he even lied to Dahlia

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to get her here, drugged her, and was going to do something to her. I couldn't bear to watch her get hurt, so I risked my safety and tried to stop him. Humiliated, that asshole blew his top and beat me into a pulp. Look at my face—look at what he did to me!”
As soon as James finished speaking, Dustin's face instantly turned stormy.

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